
TATHRA

FORESHORE RESERVES



PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Adopted August 25th 2002



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Amendment Register

Date of Amendment	Purpose of Amendment
<i>Jan 2007</i>	<i>Incorporate section of Community Land on Tathra Headland into the plan to meet LGA(1993) requirements</i>

TATHRA FORESHORE RESERVES

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management was adopted by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation under Section 114 of the Crown Lands Act (1989), on the 25th of August 2002.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over 80% of the population in NSW live in local council areas along the coast¹ and as a result large areas have been greatly modified from their natural state. The coastal zone, especially its beaches, supports a range of recreational activities such as swimming, surfing, fishing, walking, sightseeing and many social activities.

The coast is also a major reservoir of biodiversity in NSW and areas of the coast that remain in a relatively natural or undeveloped condition are extremely valuable. Foreshore Crown reserves between Mogareeka and Kianinny Bay are valuable irreplaceable community assets and important not only for their visual amenity, but for the ambience they create. The foreshore reserves are seen as having natural, cultural, recreation and tourism values of regional and state importance.

Tathra wharf and the adjacent Reserve are listed on both the National Trust and Australian Heritage Commission registers. It is extremely rare and is the only wharf of its type on the NSW South Coast.

The reserve system incorporates a range of coastal settings including ocean beaches, cliffs, and rocky shores to estuarine and wetland areas. This diversity of settings adds to the appeal of Tathra as a tourist destination, as a place to visit and as a place to live. Remnant native vegetation communities still remain in a number of locations throughout the reserve system.

The purpose of this Plan of Management is to provide strategic directions for the future management and use of the Tathra Foreshore Crown reserves and a section of *Community Land* on Tathra Headland in order to:

- protect and enhance their natural and cultural values;
- facilitate recreational use and tourism;
- optimise benefits to the local community and to visitors both for present and future generations.

This Plan of Management has been prepared to comply with relevant legislation and Government policies of which the following are the most significant:

- Crown Lands Act 1989,
- NSW Coastal Policy 1997 and
- Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- NSW Local Government Act (1993)

Bega Valley Shire Council will implement the Plan with assistance from the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee which was established by Council to advise on planning and management of Tathra's foreshore reserves.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

The basis for management of the Tathra Foreshore reserves is founded on a set of agreed values for the study area. These values are the qualities of the foreshore reserves that are significant, special or important, and that we wish to protect or enhance.

¹ NSW Coastal Policy 1997

A values-driven approach has been taken in preference to an issues based approach, since values will tend to remain fairly constant over time, whereas issues will inevitably continue to change and evolve.

What we want to achieve (objectives) with respect to identified values are listed below:

Natural Values

- Maintain the diversity of indigenous vegetation communities and protect significant vegetation communities and habitat features.
- Rehabilitate degraded ecosystems and vegetation communities where appropriate.
- Protect native fauna (aquatic and terrestrial) by protecting breeding sites and managing habitat features critical to their lifecycle.
- Suppress noxious weeds and protect ecosystems at threat from weed species.

Visual Values

- Maintain and enhance the existing diversity of scenic opportunities and maintain visual interest.
- Encourage the use of locally indigenous species within the reserve system.
- Minimise visual impacts along the foreshore and surrounding areas from development and management activities.

Heritage/ Cultural Values

- Protect heritage features from damage by users and natural processes.
- Increase community awareness of the area's cultural heritage.
- Ensure that planning and development in the Tathra foreshore is sensitive to Aboriginal cultural values of the area.

Recreational Values

- Provide for activities that take advantage of the natural, scenic and cultural values of the Tathra foreshore without adversely impacting on these values.
- Provide for a range of activities at suitable locations, consistent with the character and function of each area.
- Ensure visitor facilities and infrastructure on the foreshore are constructed and maintained to standards that meet community expectations and public safety requirements.
- Ensure that planning of foreshore facilities considers impacts of climate change.

Tourism/ Commercial Values

- Ensure a sustainable tourism industry by careful planning to maintain and enhance those natural qualities that attract visitors to the area without disadvantaging the permanent residents of Tathra.
- Allow for commercial enterprise on foreshore land where such enterprise is appropriate to its environmental and social settings and where a clear net gain to the community can be demonstrated.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND GUIDELINES

In order to achieve the objectives listed above, the following management actions and guidelines are proposed. More details about management actions and issues can be found by turning to the reference listed next to each of the sub-headings below.

□ *Nature Conservation (Ref 6.1)*

- a) Protect and enhance existing native vegetation communities, with particular emphasis on the dune vegetation north of Tathra Beach Tourist Park and the coastal foreshore reserve land between Tathra Headland and Kianinny Bay. Some re-vegetation may be necessary in areas where survival of native remnant vegetation is at risk.
- b) Protect existing fauna habitat to ensure wildlife corridors between the Tathra Foreshore reserve System and adjacent parks and reserves are retained and that avifauna is encouraged to use the reserve system.
- c) Use of local indigenous plant species will be encouraged used in landscaping works and planting schemes where appropriate.
- d) Re-vegetation of the cliff-tops on Tathra Headland will be undertaken to ensure the survival of the *Melaleuca armillaris* (Giant Honey Myrtle) dominant vegetation. Priority areas include those between the memorial garden and the adjacent cliffs.
- e) Management of wetland areas (Black Ada Wetlands) will be in accordance with NSW State Environment Planning Policy 14 and the NSW Wetlands Management Policy Action Plan 1988/ 89.
- f) Continue working with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect the Little Tern colony and other threatened shorebirds, waders and seabirds that utilise the reserve system and the dunes, sand bars and islands of the Bega River mouth by;
 - installing appropriate educational, information and regulatory signage in approaches to bird nesting areas near Lions Park and Ray Whyman Reserve;
 - erecting fencing to protect the identified nesting areas in the Bega River mouth area before each nesting season;
 - liaising with the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding any artificial opening of the Bega River to minimise impact on the Little Tern colony;
 - enforcing Council's *Dog Control Areas* policy prohibiting dogs from entering the area between Lions Park and Bega River mouth between 1 November and 31 March each year.

□ *Weeds (Ref 6.2)*

- a) Treat noxious weed infestation in accordance with the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.
- b) Assist Tathra Landcare, where appropriate, with their current program of Bitou Bush eradication and management.

- c) Develop a local integrated management plan to control Bridal Creeper in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System. Funding will be sought to implement the plan, which will include the following components:
 - Evaluation of the extent of Bridal Creeper infestation and its rate of spread.
 - Management of existing infestation.
 - Prevention of further spread.
 - Monitoring.
- d) Prevent other weeds from becoming established in the foreshore reserves by prompt response to reports of their presence, following regular monitoring by weed officers and/or Landcare group members.

□ ***The Dune System (Ref 6.3)***

- a) The Tathra dune system will be managed in accordance with guidelines in The Department of Land and Water Conservation's Coastal Dune Management: A Manual of Coastal Management and Rehabilitation techniques. (2001)
- b) Replant sections of the dune system where dieback of previous planting is evident. Priority will be given to areas south of the Tourist Park.
- c) Control pedestrian traffic to the beach throughout the foreshore reserves by providing well-maintained beach access ways and by installing, replacing and re-locating fencing as required.
- d) Continue Council support to the Tathra Landcare group with its current program of Bitou Bush eradication and management.
- e) Educate patrons of the Tourist Park and install signage regarding benefits of retaining native dunal vegetation communities.
- f) Implement a dune and foreshore rehabilitation and protection program adjacent to the Lions Park, through fencing of direct pedestrian access to the eroding foreshore area and replanting informal tracks and disturbed dune areas.
- g) Any artificial opening of River Mouth to be as far northwards as possible.

□ ***Coastal Hazards (Ref 6.4)***

- a) Current permanent infrastructure (The Surf Club, Kiosk and Sewage pumping station) located on the Tathra Foreshore Reserve within the 1 in 50yr hazard line will not be replaced once they reach the end of their economic life. An alternative site near the new toilet block, surfclub carpark adjoining grass areas in Joe Caddey Park (as shown on Figure 6) will be reserved for the future re-development of the surfclub and kiosk. No new major permanent infrastructure will be placed within this reserved area.

- b) The future placement of permanent infrastructure will be outside the 1 in 50 yr hazard line (as defined in Tathra Beach Hazard Study²). Exceptions may include minor facilities such as viewing platforms proposed for Taylor Square. Locating viewing platforms behind the foredunes is unlikely to cause any hazard to users and they can be easily relocated.
 - c) All Tathra Beach Tourist Parks sites within the 30yr hazard line to be classed as Tourist Sites or Camp sites.
 - d) Council's Engineering Services Department undertake an investigation of options for the relocation of the Hollis Gap sewage Pump Station outside the identified 100 year hazard line
- ***Fire Management (Ref6.5 & figure 9)***
- a) Manage the risk of fire within the Tathra Foreshore reserve Management System in accordance with the Rural Fires Act 1997 and Bega Valley Shire Bushfire Risk Management Policy.
 - b) Establish and maintain fuel free and fuel reduced zones between foreshore reserves and property. Where suitable fuel free, fuel reduction zones and fire management access corridors have been established, fuel management through prescribed or controlled burning will generally not be undertaken.
 - c) A reduction or modification of fuels (by fire or other means) may be carried out in Reserve 69605 (between Kianinny Bay and Tathra Oval) when assessed as needed by Council's Fire Control Officer.
 - d) Maintain fuel free zone around the southern side of the Tathra urban area by removal of illegal structures and dumped material and educating residents about maintaining the area free of dumped or stored material.
 - e) Fuel reduction burns are not considered necessary in the area north of Tathra Tourist Park, east of Andy Poole Drive and in the Gully between Pacific St and Dilker Rd.
 - f) Investigate illegal dumping of rubbish in foreshore reserves and undertake appropriate punitive action.
 - g) The Fire Control Officer or local brigade Captain, consult with the relevant management committee prior to undertaking controlled burning in Reserve areas.

² Webb, McKeown & Associates Pty.Ltd. (2001) *Tathra Beach Coastal Hazard Study*.

□ ***European Heritage (Ref 6.6.1)***

- a) Update the *1991 Tathra Wharf Conservation Plan* by preparing an Asset Management Plan for the site. Much of the work proposed in the 1991 plan has been completed (cattle yard and race, toilets, painting) and new conservation priorities are likely to have emerged. Until the Asset Management Plan is completed the conservation policy contained in the *Tathra Wharf Conservation Plan 1991* will apply.
- b) As an interim measure, asset management plan is completed, an annual maintenance program and budget will be prepared co-operatively between BVSC, Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee and the lessee of the Café to ensure that urgent maintenance items are addressed. The maintenance program should address;
 - The structure of the wharf platform (pylons, cross bracing),
 - The condition of the platform timbers and railing,
 - Electrical system and location of the power board.
 - Fire detection and suppression.
 - Condition of building cladding and drainage
- c) A full safety and security audit of the Tathra Wharf and buildings will be undertaken in association with the lessee, wharf user groups and Bega Valley Shire Council
- d) The Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will be encouraged to implement the *Tathra Wharf Committee Strategic Plan 1998*. Implementation of the short-term priorities is suggested. They are:
 - Development of a business plan
 - Investigating initiatives to create an income stream
 - Improve Government and Corporate support
 - Interpret the Wharf and its history.
- e) The issue of access to the wharf is considered in detail in Section 6.7.3 of this Plan of Management.

□ ***Aboriginal Heritage (Ref. 6.6.2)***

- a) As much of the planning area is likely to comprise areas of sensitivity, Council will consult the Bega Land Council in the preparation of this plan and its implementation.
- b) An Aboriginal Assessment Report will be prepared for the planning area to identify culturally significant sites, assess their vulnerability and develop strategies for their protection.
- c) Encourage the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council to participate in planning and management of the Tathra foreshore reserves by membership of the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee.

- d) All aspects of Aboriginal site planing and management will include the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- e) Aboriginal relics and sites will be protected by ensuring that, wherever possible, infrastructure is located so as not to adversely impact on artefact sites or other sites of cultural significance.
- f) Establishing a protocol whereby foreshore reserve sites subject to disturbance from construction or improvement are assessed by Site Officers of the Bega Traditional Elders Council prior to commencement of works.
- g) Contractors and Council staff will be made aware that in the event of any bones, stone artefacts, or discrete distribution of shell being unearthed during construction, works will cease and the BVSC, Bega Local Area Land Council and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service informed of the discovery. Works will not proceed until the material has been inspected and permission given to proceed.

TATHRA BEACH TOURIST PARK

□ *Tathra Beach Tourist Park – Development and Accommodation (Ref. 6.7.1)*

The following guidelines represent Council and the Department of Land and Water Conservations basic principles under which the Tathra Beach Tourist Park would be developed regardless of the eventual management arrangements of the Park.

It should be noted that there is a correlation between the number of cabins in the park and the income stream that may be used for improvements to Taylor Square and other sites in the Tathra foreshore reserves.

Final layout would be subject to a Development Application process.

a) Long-Term Sites (Permanent)

- No new long-term residence sites will be provided and current sites will be phased out through natural attrition.
- Consent to assign or sub-let a residential tenancy agreement will not be granted.
- When existing sites are vacated by the current residents these sites will revert to short term sites.

b) Tourist And Camp Sites (Vacant Sites)

- A minimum of 30% of the total number of sites within the Park are to be classified for use by campervans, tents and towing caravans. This figure does not include camp sites at Hobbs Corner
- Camping will continue to be permitted in Hobbs Corner during peak holiday periods subject to a review every five years.
- Sites within the 30 year hazard line that currently contain cabins will, once the cabins are relocated, revert to tourist and camp sites.

c) Park Sites (Park owned accommodation)

- Park owned accommodation facilities must be provided in a range of styles that cater for all markets from budget style facilities through to family units and luxury ensuite spa cabins.
- A maximum 40 Park Sites will be permitted to be occupied by UMD's (cabins). However, final numbers will be determined through the Development Application process.
- Cabin development must be sympathetically designed and constructed using materials and colours that compliment the landscape and setting. No two storey cabins will be permitted on the park. Their design requirements will be such as not to unduly restrict views from properties adjoining Andy Poole Drive.
- A minimum of one specialised disabled use cabin to be provided in the Park.
- All new UMD's or permanent structures are to be placed behind the 1 in 50 year coastal hazard line.
- Existing UMDs within the 1 in 30 year storm hazard line are to be relocated behind the 1 in 50 year hazard line the end of their economic life or within 5 years of the making of this plan-whichever is the earlier. Following relocation, some land may be used for landscaping improvements; minor recreation facilities and the remainder will revert to Tourist and Camp sites

d) Holiday Sites (Sites occupied by private vans or UMDs)

- The maximum number of Holiday Van Sites permitted on the park is to be capped at the current level. Holiday Van sites however may be re-classified as Tourist, Camping or Park sites as the need arises.
- All Holiday van owners must enter into a written short-term licence agreement for the hiring of the site occupied by their caravan or UMD. The term of such hiring agreements will be for a maximum period of 12 months. After each 12-month period holiday site occupiers' licence agreements will be reviewed by management/ Reserve Trust.
- Owners of privately owned vans or UMD's must obtain permission to sell their van "on-site". Any consent given will be on the basis that the purchaser enters into a written agreement which acknowledges that they have no ownership in the site and may be required at the end of the term of their hiring agreement to either vacate the park or relocate to another site.
- Privately owned vans will not be permitted to be replaced by unregistered movable dwellings (UMD's).

e) General Conditions

- Park to be maintained to at least a 3½ star rating.
- All existing sites within 30yr hazard line to be classed as Tourist and Camp Sites, therefore only being available for use by campervans, tents and towing caravans. This will ensure that this zone can be quickly vacated when major storm events occur.

- Current permanent infrastructure (including central amenities block) within the 1 in 50yr hazard line will not be replaced once it reaches end of economic life, with particular emphasis on the existing cabin precinct adjacent to Hollis Gap. (Cabins are to be relocated behind the 50 year hazard line at the end of their economic life or within 5 years of the making of this plan-whichever is the earlier.)
- The future placement of permanent infrastructure will be outside the 1 in 50 yr hazard line (as defined in Tathra Beach Hazard Study).
- Any shop proposed in the Tourist Park must be ancillary to park operations, conform to use permitted in a 6A Zone under the Bega Valley Local Environment Plan 1987 and would be prohibited from servicing outside clientele.
- No two storey built structures will be permitted in the park. Building design requirements will be such as not to unduly restrict views from properties adjoining Andy Poole Drive.
- Development consent and a new Approval to be obtained for any alteration, endorsed by the adopted plan of management to the current approved Caravan Park.

□ ***Tathra Beach Tourist Park – Management (Ref 6.7.2)***

- a) Council will, on completion of this Plan of Management, carry out a financial assessment of leasing the park or operating the park under direct Council management. The assessment will be based on the conditions set out in the adopted Plan of Management. These conditions will refer to the following:
- access;
 - security;
 - landscaping;
 - maintenance standards;
 - Park improvements (and the rate of upgrading achievable);
 - Accommodation mix.
- b) On determination of which management structure provides the community with the best return, Council will resolve the management structure for the park and the Park will be managed in accordance with the principles stated in this Plan of Management (**in particular section 6.7**) for a term of up to 20 years.
- c) The future of the caravan park and the foreshore reserve on which it is located will be reviewed in 15 years. **This review should be reflected in any further management or lease arrangements for the caravan park.**

□ ***Tathra Beach Tourist Park – Access and Security (Ref 6.7.3)***

- a) Park security will be provided by a combination of landscape planting of the Andy Poole Drive boundary and security patrols during peak holiday times. (Details of security patrol use will be a commercial decision to be taken by park management.) A log rail fence, 1.2m in height, may also be used to protect landscaping and direct people around the landscape barriers to the defined access points.

- b) The existing style of fencing on the northern, southern and beachfront boundaries will be retained and strengthened with landscape planting where required.
- c) Perimeter landscape planting specifications will be prepared by Council and incorporated in any lease requirements;
- d) Public access to the beach through Tathra Beach Tourist Park will be ensured by the provision of three sign posted public access points between the main park entrance and it's northern boundary (Figure 8). These access points will be in addition to the northern carpark beach access track. All access points will be available to the community 24 hours per day.
- e) Close southern beach access past sewer pump station as it is surplus to current needs and will allow for revegetation and protection of this vulnerable section of dune
- f) People using the beach at night will be encouraged to exit the beach by one of the Taylor Square beach access ways and a point at the car park to the north of the caravan park by lighting these points.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

□ *Day Use Facilities (Ref. 6.8.1)*

- a) The current number of day use sites is considered to be adequate. Visitor facilities in these sites will be provided to meet the needs of a range of visitors while taking into consideration the character and function of each area.
- b) Implement the landscape plan for Taylor Square, Joe Caddey Park and Thatcher's Flat (See Figure 6) incorporated in the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management as approved by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation.
- c) A landscape plan will be prepared for the Tathra Headland in order to complete landscaping commenced by the construction of the memorial gardens. A formal car park, bus parking, directional and interpretive signage and additional planting to provide sun and wind shelter will be incorporated in the plan.
- d) Develop a plan to identify costs of repair and replacement and required standard of visitor facilities and infrastructure within the Tathra foreshore reserves. These standards will be consistent with existing budgetary and financial constraints and meet required risk management guidelines.
- e) Lions Park will continue to be managed so as to cater for large and small groups. Damaged tables and barbeques will be removed, some of which may not be replaced.
- f) A landscape plan will be prepared for Lions Park. This plan will incorporate layout of tables and barbeques, design standards, vegetation layout and planting scheme and design for low cost maintenance.

- g) Jim Preo and Ray Whyman reserves will cater for visitors using the Bega River for swimming, fishing, boating and picnicking. A landscape concept plan has been developed for this area (see Figure 7) which proposes the following improvements :
- Provision of more picnic tables and bbq facilities
 - Tree planting program for landscape and shade purposes
 - Grassing bare areas.
 - Shade for picnic tables.
 - Formalising the northern car park if existing parking fails to meet demand.
 - Landscaping works along the riverbank to stabilise the bank and improve user safety.
 - Improved maintenance of boat ramp (See Section 6.8.4)
- h) Construct a new jetty in Jim Preo reserve to replace existing structure. The jetty will be based on a floating pontoon to cater for fluctuating river heights particularly when the mouth is closed for extended periods of time.
- ***Vehicle Access (Ref. 6.8.2)***
- a) Increase the capacity of car parking in and adjacent to the foreshore reserve areas by;
- formalising and improving the layout of the car parks on the south east side of Bega River and in Jim Preo Reserve,
 - increasing the size of the car parks adjacent to the old Tathra tennis courts and the northern boundary of the Tourist Park (subject to the future layout and management of the Tourist Park),
 - incorporating parking in Taylor Square and Tathra Headland landscape plans.
- b) Implement a program of progressively upgrading the surface quality of all carparks in the foreshore reserves using a range of surface treatments (bitumen, reinforced grass, concrete, etc) depending on the specific site requirements, intensity of use, environmental and aesthetic sensitivities. Priority will be given to those car parks adjacent to waterways where sediment run-off has been identified as a potential issue.
- c) Disabled access to the reserve system and beach will be improved by the installation of disabled parking signs at key locations. Priority will be given to installations at Thatchers Flat adjacent to the kiosk, and at Tathra Headland car park
- d) Make provision for bus parking landscape and traffic management plans for Tathra Headland.
- e) Vehicles (with the exception of emergency service vehicles) will not be permitted on any beaches adjacent to the Tathra foreshore reserves.
- f) Design and construct a board and chain or closely spaced timber emergency vehicle access at the existing degraded pedestrian access point to the north of the Country Club.

The new access structure will double as a pedestrian access for the majority of the time and vehicle access will be regulated by locked chain gate. Site design will also have to allow for heavy machinery access through this access point.

□ ***Access to Tathra Wharf (ref 6.8.3)***

- a) Within the context of improving access to Tathra Wharf and current availability of Council funds, priority will be given to maintaining vehicle access and parking at existing standards and the construction of a disabled access compliant path along the route of the old road. Additional car and bus parking will be provided on the headland by formalising existing parking arrangements.
- b) Should funding become available, a full feasibility study of reinstating the old access road and alternative transport modes will be undertaken. Such a study will include:
 - An assessment of government policy constraints
 - geo-technical survey
 - coastal hazards assessment
 - engineering and environmental constraints
 - projected costings
 - an investigation of alternative modes of transport
- c) Investigate alternative methods of providing access from Memorial gardens area to the Wharf

□ ***Boating Facilities (Ref. 6.8.4)***

- a) High standard boat launching facilities will be provided in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system by implementing a regular inspection and maintenance program. Particular attention will be given to removing built up sand from the ramp at Jim Preo Reserve.
- b) Car and trailer parking at boat ramps will be monitored during peak holiday periods (in particular at Mogareeka) to assess the need for “*trailer parking only*” signage or construction of additional car or trailer parking spaces.
- c) Fish cleaning facilities will continue to be provided at major boat launching ramps in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system. A new fish cleaning table will be installed in Jim Preo Reserve to the west of the small wooden jetty, on the old concrete platform.
- d) Construct a new jetty in Jim Preo reserve to replace existing structure. The jetty will be based on a floating pontoon to cater for fluctuating river heights particularly when the mouth is closed for extended periods of time.

□ ***Pedestrian Access (Ref. 6.8.5)***

- a) Maintenance and construction of pedestrian paths, tracks, bridges, lookout platforms, stairs and other infrastructure will conform to the appropriate Australian Standards including those Standards applicable to disabled access.

- b) Safe beach access will be provided by undertaking regular inspection and maintenance of beach accesses-ways and stairs.
- c) The area between the multi purpose track and Andy Poole Drive from Bega River to the Tathra commercial area will be mulched and planted to reduce maintenance costs. A mix of low and medium sized plants will be used to ensure public safety is maintained.
- d) The number of beach access-ways to be provided between the surf club and Hollis Gap will be considered in the landscape concept plan for Taylor Square (see Figure 6. for concept plan).
- e) Encourage people using the beach at night to access the beach via Taylor Square access ways and the public car park at the northern end of the Tourist Park by providing night lighting at these sites.
- f) Links between pedestrian tracks, paths and stairs within the reserve system and with those immediately adjacent to the reserve system (eg Kangarutha Walking Track) will be signposted using low key signage which is consistent with signage currently being installed in the Tathra foreshore reserves. Small trailheads (including some interpretive information and maps) will be constructed at each end of the coast walk which starts close to Chamberlain Lookout
- g) New infrastructure and replacement of old infrastructure will be disabled access compliant.
- h) Replant cliff top areas and / or install fencing along tracks constructed near cliffed or steep areas.

□ ***Landscape and Visual Quality (Ref. 6.8.6)***

- a) A maintenance program incorporating watering, replacing broken fencing, pruning trees and shrubs, removing dead vegetation matter and prompt attention to damaged infrastructure will be developed for the Foreshore Reserve system to ensure safety and maintain a cared-for appearance. Maintenance of key visual corridors will be included.
- b) The visual qualities of key locations in the reserve system will be enhanced by development of landscape plans as funds allow. (Taylor Square/ Joe Caddey/ Thatchers Flat area and Jim Preo/ Ray Whyman Reserves are incorporated in this Plan of Management),
- c) Planting guidelines will be developed for precincts within the reserve system using, wherever possible, plant species indigenous to the local area.
- d) Design standards will be developed for reserve infrastructure and visitor facilities.
- e) Adjacent property owners will be consulted about proposed landscape plans to, wherever possible, identify and maintain important sight lines from adjacent properties.

- f) All buildings, including cabins in the Tathra Beach Tourist Park will be designed and landscaped to improve the internal and external appearance of the park.

OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

□ *Waste Management (Ref 6.9.1)*

- a) Visitors to the foreshore will, where appropriate, be encouraged to take their rubbish away with them when they leave.
- b) A range of approaches to litter management in the foreshore reserves may be trialed. These may include:
- Removal of litter bins from some sites and installing signage asking visitors to take their rubbish and litter with them when they leave. Low visitor frequency sites, accessed principally by motorcar (eg Chamberlain Lookout), could be suitable trial sites. High use sites such as Lions Park and Jim Preo Reserve will be excluded from the trial.
 - Provide more bins or service them more regularly at high impact/ high use sites such as Tathra Wharf and Taylor Square.
 - Use bins designed to be more attractive and to reduce dumping of household rubbish.
- c) Continue to develop strategies with Tathra Surf Club to reduce litter on Tathra Beach and reduce the visual appearance of bins in the Tathra Beach area.

□ *Risk Management (Ref 6.9.2)*

- a) Develop an Asset Management Plan to incorporate the following components:
- Construction standards for infrastructure that comply with Australian Standards.
 - Maintenance standards to comply with Australian Standard, (1999) AS/NZS 4360:1999. *Risk Management*,
 - Procedures for infrastructure inspection, assessment, recording and maintenance.
 - A risk audit.
 - An emergency response plan incorporating:
 - search and rescue
 - bush fire threat;
 - storm events;
 - law and order incidents;
- b) Continue to implement the Bega Valley Shire Council beach signage policy.
- c) In the short term ensure beach access tracks, stairs, viewing platforms and visitor facilities are constructed and maintained to comply with Australian Standard DR99196 with regard to Councils budgetary and financial constraints.

□ ***Reserve Encroachment and Unauthorised Activities (Ref 6.9.3)***

- a) All vehicles, vessels, firewood and stored goods are to be removed from the reserves.
- b) The clearing of vegetation to improve foreshore views is prohibited. The issue of vegetation removal for fire protection is largely site specific and as such larger firebreaks may be permitted in some instances.
- c) An under scrubbing buffer zone up to 5 metres from the property boundary for the purposes of fire control is permitted. Written permission must be obtained from Council for fire protection works beyond the 5 metre under scrubbing buffer zone.
- d) All rubbish dumping is prohibited.
- e) The erection of private permanent or temporary structures in reserves is prohibited.
- f) The use of the reserve system as an access to private property can not be assured and may be phased out in the future.

□ ***Leases and Licenses (Ref. 6.9.4)***

- a) Seek to establish a lease or licence between the Trust Manager and the Tathra Surf Life Saving Club for the use of the land occupied by the Club.
- b) Facilitate the completion of the Lease agreement between Tathra Beach Bowling Club and Bega Valley Shire Council subject to the Bowling Club incorporating facilities such as tables and seats and a reduced lease area to allow for an extension and re-structuring of the small car park off Andy Poole Drive. The lease will be for a period of 20 years, after which the use of the site will be reviewed.
- c) Continue to permit food and beverage outlets operating at Jim Preo Reserve, the kiosk and Tathra Wharf in accordance with the “*Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves Policy, 2001*”.
- d) Temporary commercial and community activities will be allowed in the Tathra foreshore reserves providing they are intended to enhance the public’s enjoyment of the reserves and subject to:
 - Being consistent with the form and character of the reserve;
 - Public access to the reserve being preserved;
 - Approval being obtained from relevant authorities
 - Operation in accordance with consent conditions.

In the event of more than one applicant seeking a licence to conduct the same activity, competitive tendering protocol and selection criteria will be developed

- e) Maintain existing lease and maintenance agreement between Tathra Fishermen’s Club and Department of Land and Water Conservation. The Permissive Occupancy held by Tathra Motor Village over part of Reserve 79310 is to be terminated and management of the area will revert to the Reserve Trust.
 - f) Investigate the need to formalise legal access to the Fishermans Club lease area
- ***Domestic Animals on Beaches (Ref. 6.9.5)***
 - a) The Council Policy “*Dog Control Areas*” (Appendix 1) will be implemented in the planning area.
 - b) Implement a community education program to encourage community acceptance and adherence to the “*Dog Control Areas Policy*” by appropriate signage, press releases and enforcement. This education program will focus on the concept of responsible dog ownership.
- ***Fires on Beaches (Ref. 6.9.6)***
 - a) Identify resources to allow Council Rangers to effectively enforce beach fire prohibition
 - b) Continue existing policy of prohibiting the lighting of fires on beaches in the planning area and install appropriate signage.
- ***Water Quality and Urban Runoff (Ref. 6.9.7)***
 - a) Install grills in the open drain at Hollis Gap to trap rubbish and undertake regular clearing.
 - b) Design and maintain car parks adjacent to Bega River so as to minimise sediment runoff into the river.
 - c) Monitor water quality in Killarney Creek
- ***Management and Maintenance (Ref 6.9.8)***
 - a) To encourage a co-ordinated approach to community participation in the planning and management of the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System, the geographic scope of the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will be expanded to incorporate all reserves included in this Plan of Management. The Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will be the principal community consultation group for establishing priorities and implementing the adopted plan, in consultation with existing voluntary groups including the Tathra Lions Club and the Tathra Amateur Fishermans Club. It will also play an important role in monitoring the progress of plan implementation.
 - b) The Tathra Foreshore Reserves Trust (managed by Council) will be established and be appointed trust manager under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act for all reserves included in this Plan of management.

Under the provisions of Section 106 of the Crown Lands Act, the Trust will be permitted to expend funds derived from one reserve in another reserve as long as it is in accordance with this Plan of Management.

- c) Reserve 69605 for Public Pound (#8 on Figure 4), be revoked and incorporated into Reserve 64333 for Public Recreation
- d) Reserve 85970 for Plantation (#13 on Figure 4), be revoked and incorporated into Reserve 82753 for Public Recreation
- e) Incorporate Un-notified Reserve for Public Recreation (#12 on Figure 4) in Reserve 64335 for Public Recreation
- f) Incorporate Un-notified Reserve for Drainage (#4 on Figure 4) in Reserve 79310 for Public Recreation
- g) Incorporate Un-notified Reserve for Access (#11 on Figure 4) in Reserve 64333 for Public Recreation
- h) Reserve 68914 for Access (#3 on Figure 4), be Revoked and incorporated in Reserve 79310 for Public Recreation
- i) Seek to establish a maintenance budget and grant funds for maintenance standards that meet community expectations.

PART A: MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

1 THE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

This Plan of Management will become a legal document that outlines how the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System will be managed in the years ahead. It is currently only in a draft form, but once adopted by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation, it must be carried out and no operations may be undertaken in respect of the reserves unless they are in accordance with the plan.

1.1 THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The overall aims of the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management are to:

- Identify the significant values of the planning area.
- Identify issues that need to be considered in relation to these values.
- Develop appropriate management strategies and policies to ensure conservation, recreation, cultural heritage, aesthetic and other values of the study area are retained and where appropriate enhanced. In many instances the management actions proposed will be strategic and will require further planning before implementation.

1.2 THE PROCESS

The basis for management of the Tathra Foreshore Crown reserves is founded on a set of agreed values for the study area. These values are the qualities of the foreshore reserves that are significant, special or important, and that we wish to protect or enhance. A values-driven approach has been taken in preference to an issues based approach, since values will tend to remain fairly constant over time, whereas issues will inevitably continue to change and evolve.

The preparation, ratification and implementation of this plan of management has four basic sequential steps:

A. Collection of Information and Definition of Issues

- Analysis of the site and the determination of planning opportunities and constraints.
- Consultation with the stakeholders and interest groups to identify reserve values and management issues. Assessment of relevant legislation and government policies.
- The establishment of aims and guidelines for the planning area.
- Analysis of relevant management issues and the existing situation.

B. Development of the Preferred Management Approach and the Preparation of the Plan

- Establishment of management objectives for the planning area.
- The establishment of desired outcomes for the management area to satisfy the aims and objectives of the plan, the needs of the community and stakeholder groups.
- Formulation and evaluation of development and management options in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholder groups.

- Establishment of management strategies and supporting actions.
- Preparation of the draft management document.

C. Exhibition and Making of the Plan

- Exhibition of the draft plan for public comment.
- Consideration of public comment and subsequent amendment (where warranted).
- Consideration of the plan and any amendments by the Department of Land and Water Conservation and Bega Valley Shire Council.
- Adoption of the plan of management by the Minister of Land and Water Conservation.

D. Implementation and Performance Monitoring

- Funding of actions recommended in the plan.
- Regular review and assessment of the extent to which the plan has been implemented.
- Reporting to stakeholders about plan implementation and need for modification and re-prioritising over time.

1.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Foreshore values and desired outcomes were identified and strategic actions were developed in consultation with the community. Prior to the preparation of the first draft of the plan, community views were gained from:

- A public meeting held in December 2000
- A series of informal workshops to which representatives from community groups, associations and businesses were invited to attend.
- Letters and submissions received in December 2000 from individuals and organisations regarding the Development Application 2000/1659 and land use concept plan for the future use of the Tathra Beach Tourist Park and reserve areas south of Hollis' Gap.
- Regular meetings with the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee, a sub-committee of council established to assist Council with the management of Tathra foreshore reserves, and the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management Consultation Panel. The consultation panel consisted of representatives of the following groups:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Tathra Area Committee | • Tathra Parks and Foreshores Committee |
| • Tathra Chamber of Commerce | • Tathra Sunshine Club |
| • Concerned Citizens of Tathra | • Concerned Citizens of the Tathra Beach Tourist Park |
| • Tathra Lions Club | • Tathra Landcare |

- Public comments received on the series of discussion papers prepared on key planning issues. The following discussion papers were prepared:
 - Tathra Beach Tourist Park: Management Options
 - Tathra Beach Tourist Park: Access and Security Options
 - Tathra Beach Tourist Park: Development and Accommodation Composition
 - Tathra Wharf and Headland Access Options
 - Landscape Concept Plan for the Taylor Square / Joe Caddey Park
- Feedback received from public displays associated with the discussion papers.

Following adoption of the Plan of Management by Bega Valley Shire Council and the Minister for Land and Water Conservation it is anticipated that the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will participate in its implementation. The Committee was appointed by Council under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 for the care, control and management of that part of Reserve 79310 south of Tathra Beach Tourist Park as well as Tathra Hall and Tathra Wharf. Guidelines for the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee specifies the Committee's role as including:

- Input into the development and implementation of a plan of management;
- Overseeing the maintenance of the foreshore south of Hollis Gap;
- Make adequate arrangements for appropriate use of the foreshore, Tathra Hall and Tathra Wharf;
- Refer projects to Council for funding from the Reserve funds raised by the operation and/or lease of the Tathra Tourist Park.

2. THE PLANNING AREA

2.1 LOCATION AND REGIONAL SETTING

The area of land subject to this draft plan of management is located in the seaside town of Tathra on the Far South Coast of New South Wales, approximately 450km south of Sydney. Tathra is situated 18km to the east of Bega and midway between the tourist centres of Merimbula and Bermagui (Figure 3)

This Plan of Management incorporates the Crown reserves from Jim Preo and Ray Whyman reserves in Mogareeka, south to Tathra Headland and along the cliff tops to Kianinny Bay (Figure 4) and Lawrence Park. Bushland bordered by Pacific St, Davidson St, Dilkera Rd and Hobbs Corner is also included.

2.2 CURRENT LAND STATUS AND ZONING

All land included in this plan is Crown land. Bega Valley Shire Council and the Department of Land and Water Conservation are the principal stakeholders with statutory responsibility for the area.

Description and status details are provided below:

Town & Parish: Tathra / Wallagoot
County: Auckland
LGA: Bega Valley Shire
Area: Approx. 125 hectares

Name and Description	Crown Land & LGA (1993) Status	Gazettal Details	BVSC Zoning
Jim Preo & Ray Whyman Reserves Mogareeka (#1 Fig. 4)	Public Recreation	R.82753 1960	6(a)
Bega River to Thatchers Flat including Lions Park, wetlands adjacent to Andy Poole Drive, Tathra Tourist Park, Taylor Square, Joe Caddey Park, the old town tennis courts, Hobbs Corner, Vic Crowhurst Park and Bushland between Pacific St and Dilker Rd. (#2 Fig. 4)	Public Recreation and Resting Place	R.79310 1957	6(a)
Small lot on Northern side of Pacific St (#3 Fig. 4)	Reserve for Access	R.68914 1939	
Bushland between Andy Poole drive and Beach Hill steps (#4 Fig. 4)	Un-notified Reserve for Drainage		6(a)
Tathra Wharf and Reserve (#5 Fig. 4)	Public Access and Heritage Purposes and Public Recreation	R.180056 1992	5(a)
Tathra Headland (#6 Fig. 4)	Public Recreation	R.64335 1934	6(a)
Tathra Headland to Kianinny Bay and along the southern side of Tathra to Lawrence Park (#7 Fig. 4)	Public Recreation	R.64333 1934	6(a)
Area behind Lawrence Park (#8 Fig. 4)	Public Pound	R.69605 1940	6(a)
Remnant Melaleuca bushland to the east of Bay St and behind houses in Illoura St (#9 Fig. 4)	Protection of Native Flora	R.89138 1974	6(a)
Part of Reserve 79310 North of Tathra Beach Tourist Park (#10 Fig. 4)	Permissive Occupancy		
Small lot on Southern side of Bay St (#11 Fig. 4)	Un-notified Reserve for Access		2(a)
Cliff top open space area adjacent to Cliff Place (#12 Fig. 4)	Un-notified Reserve for Public Recreation		6(a)
Small bushland reserve between the Bermagui Rd and Mogareeka Drive (#13 Fig. 4)	Plantation	R.85970 1966	V
Tathra Headland Community Land (Fig11)	Community Land – Natural Area Foreshore		3(a)

The land covered by this plan is subject to the Bega Valley Shire Council Local Environment Plan 1987. Three Zones apply to the foreshore reserves- 5(a) *Special Uses*, which is the site of Tathra Wharf and 6(a) *Existing Open Space Zone*, which identifies and protects land used or capable of being used for public recreation purposes. The wetlands between Andy Poole Drive and the Tathra Country Club are protected wetlands under State Environment Planning Policy No.14 (SEPP14) and are 7(b) *Foreshore Protection*.

2.2.1 LEASES AND LICENCES

There are a number of areas within the Tathra Foreshore Reserves that are subject to leases and licences. They are:

□ Tathra Beach Kiosk

The Tathra beach kiosk building is leased to a commercial operator until 2005 with an option for a further five years from that date until the end of October 2010. Bega Valley Shire Council administers the lease.

□ The Tathra Wharf

The buildings on Tathra Wharf are leased to commercial operators to 2005, with an option for a further 5 years. Bega Valley Shire Council as Trust Manager administers the lease.

□ Kianinny Bay and Tathra Fisherman's Club

The Tathra Fishermans Club has a special lease from the Department of Land and Water Conservation for an area of Kianniny Bay incorporating the clubhouse, BBQs and grassed picnic area.

□ Tathra Beach Tourist Park

Following national invitations for expressions of interest in leasing Tathra Beach Tourist Park, Council resolved in April 2000 to enter into a 20 year lease of the park subject to consent by the Department of Land and Water Conservation. The Council resolution also proposed revision to public access to Tathra Beach following public advertisement and consultation.

A Development Application (DA 2000/1659) and a land use concept plan for the future use of Tathra Beach Tourist Park and reserve areas south of Hollis Gap were placed on public exhibition in November 2000.

As a result of objections to altered beach access conditions associated with the above and a need to consider the future of the Tourist Park within the context of a plan of management for the whole Tathra Foreshore Reserve system, the leasing of the Tathra Tourist Park has not proceeded. The Tourist Park is currently managed under a short-term license agreement between Council and a commercial operator.

□ **The Tathra Beach Bowling Club**

The land on which the bowling greens, clubhouse and car parks are located is leased directly from the Department of Land and Water Conservation. A lease over part of Reserve 79310, which includes an indoor bowls building was issued by the Bega Valley Shire Council but expired in October 1999.

At the time of writing this plan Tathra Bowling Club was negotiating a lease from the Council over the area of land subject to the expired lease and also the old town tennis courts.

□ **Food Van at Jim Preo Reserve**

The site of the food van is leased to a commercial operator until 2002. Bega Valley Shire Council administers the lease.

2.2.2 PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCY

The Tathra Beach Motor Village was granted permissive occupancy over about 12.68 hectares of land in Reserve 79310 opposite the Tathra Motor Village by the Minister for Lands in 1989 for the purposes of dune restoration and access.

The permissive occupancy allows for two beach access paths between Andy Poole Drive and the beach to be maintained for Tathra Motor Village patrons. Conditions associated with the Permissive Occupancy require that the tenant (currently the owner of the Tathra Beach Motor Village) removes all Bitou Bush and rubbish from the area and controls pedestrian access in such a manner as to avoid erosion to the sand dunes.

2.2.3 OTHER OCCUPANCIES

Tathra Surf Life Saving Club

The Tathra Surf Life Saving Club premises are located in the foreshore reserve adjacent to the Tathra Beach Kiosk. The Surf Club currently does not hold a lease to occupy these premises and consequently has no security of tenure.

2.3 RESERVE MANAGEMENT

Responsibility for the administration and management of the NSW Crown reserve system rests ultimately with the Minister for Land and Water Conservation. The Bega Valley Shire Council has been appointed Trust Manager for a number of sections of the Tathra foreshore reserve system under Part 5 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, whilst some Reserves have been devolved to Council for Care, Control and Management under Section 48 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council has, under Section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, appointed the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee for the care, control and management of that part of Reserve 79310 south of the Caravan Park as well as the care, control and management of the Tathra Wharf and Tathra Hall.

3 ATTRIBUTES OF THE TATHRA FORESHORE RESERVES

The Tathra foreshore reserves are seen as having natural, cultural, recreation and tourism values of regional, state and national importance. The foreshore is an irreplaceable public asset and is important not only for its visual amenity, but for the ambience it creates.

The Tathra foreshore reserve system serves the functions of protecting the adjacent coastal natural and built environments, providing a diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats, contributing to the aesthetic quality of Tathra and providing residents and visitors with quality recreational opportunities.

The reserve system incorporates a range of coastal settings including ocean beaches, cliffs, and rocky shores to estuarine and wetland areas. Remnant natural vegetation communities remain in a number of locations throughout the reserve system.

3.1 THE NATURAL FEATURES

The natural setting of the Tathra foreshore is an important local and regional environmental, recreational and tourism asset. The foreshore reserve system is a major contributor to both the ecology of Tathra and its surrounds and to the range and quality of recreational opportunities and experiences available.

The value of natural assets is recognised in the Sapphire Coast Tourism Strategy *“The beauty and diversity of the regions natural assets are significant strengths and distinctive characteristics.... The area is rich in flora and fauna. These assets offer a wide range of enjoyable experiences.”*³

3.1.1 GEOLOGY

The geology of the planning area is a major feature of the natural environment. Outcrops of the Eden rhyolite formation dominate the cliff area from Kianinny Bay to the southern end of Tathra Beach. Red and brown slates and sandstones and other sediments also overlay the rhyolite in places.

The beach/dune area is largely composed of siliceous sands and sandy loams. Grey sandy loams and alluvial deposits are the dominant soil types in the remainder of the foreshore area.

3.1.2 FLORA

□ Mogareeka

The small areas of reserve on the western side of Mogareeka and at the intersection of Main Rd 272 and Bay Drive are remnant *Eucalyptus maculata* (Spotted Gum) communities. The Bay Drive remnant features a small wetland area and also has an infestation of bridal creeper.

³ ERM Mitchell McCotter (1997) *Sapphire Coast Tourism Strategy*, page S.2,

□ **Bega River to the Northern Boundary of the Tathra Tourist Park.**

Banksia integrifolia (Coast Banksia) and *Acacia longifolia* var *sophorae* (Coast Wattle) dominate this section of the study area. *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet Pittosporum), *Leucopogon lanceolatus* (Lance Beard Heath) and *Leptospermum laevigatum* (Coast Tea-Tree) are also widespread.

This section of the foreshore also contains an area of wetland between Andy Poole Drive and Tathra Country Club. The wetland is important for fish and bird species breeding and feeding, with migratory birds also frequenting the area. Wetlands also function as natural filter systems, filtering sediments and other pollutants. The wetland is protected under the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP 14 Coastal Wetlands).

The wetland is dominated by *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed), *Juncus kraussii* (Sea Rush) and *Baumea juncea* (Slender Twig Rush).

□ **Southern boundary of the Tathra Tourist Park to Tathra Headland**

The vegetation in this section has been highly modified and is characterised by large areas of open grass and plantings of largely non-indigenous shrubs and trees. Stands of Norfolk Pine at the landward edge of the dunes are significant visually to the town.

□ **Area between Dilker Rd and Pacific St.**

Eucalyptus Cypellocarpa (Mountain Grey Gum) are the dominant overstorey species in this reserve. *Pittosporum undulatum* densely covers the main drainage line and has become the main understorey species in the remaining parts of the reserve.

The Reserve has several infestations of invasive weeds and there are many outbreaks of exotic, garden-variety species resulting from illegal dumping of garden waste.

□ **Tathra Headland to Kianinny Bay**

The vegetation occurring on the cliffs from the beach stairs around to Kianinny Bay generally comprises a narrow strip of *Melaleuca armillaris* (Giant Honey Myrtle), *Acacia longifolia* var *sophore* (Coastal Wattle), *Westringia fruticosa* (Coast Rosemary) and *Casuarina stricta* (Drooping She-oak). Other species including *Acacia mearnsii* (Late Black Wattle), *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet Pittosporum), *A. implexa* (Lightwood), *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Black She-oak) and various eucalypt species are present with increasing distance from the cliff edge.

□ **Lawrence Park / Pre-school to Bournda National Park.**

This section of the Reserve features a large area of open dry sclerophyll forest, with a structure strongly influenced by a frequent hazard reduction regime.

The Reserve is home to an interesting variety of *Eucalypt spp* including *Eucalyptus sieberi* (Silvertop Ash), *Eucalyptus muellerana* (Yellow Stringybark), *Eucalyptus longifolia* (Woollybutt), *Eucalyptus boistoana* (Coastal Grey Box) and *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa* (Mountain Grey Gum). *Angophora floribunda* (Rough Barked Apple) can also be found throughout this section of the Reserve.

The main drainage line flowing from this reserve to Kianniny Bay is characterised by a densely growing *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet Pittosporum). There is also a small area of *Melaleuca armillaris* (Giant Honey Myrtle) growing above Kianniny St.

3.1.3 FAUNA

The Bega River estuary, sand flats and islands provide year round habitat for resident and migratory shorebirds, waders and sea birds. Most bird activity occurs from August to February (Pied Oystercatcher and Red Dotterel) and November to March (Little tern). In addition to the above, the following migratory birds have also been recorded: Bar Tailed Gadwits, Red Neck Stints, Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, Mongolian Dotterels, Sanderlings, Ruffs, Eastern Curlew, Double Banded Plover, Great Knott and Common Greenshank.⁴

Fauna surveys undertaken in the Tathra area (Graham-Higgs⁵) have identified species of fauna that are likely to occur in the reserves including several endangered or vulnerable species listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act.1995. These include the Yellow-bellied Glider (*Petaurus australis*), Pied Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus longirostris*), Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), Hooded Plover (*Charadrius rubicollis*) and the Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*).

Areas of contiguous bushland and wetlands within the Tathra area provide important wildlife habitat corridors effectively linking a range of coastal vegetation communities within Mimosa Rocks National Park to those of Bournda National Park.

3.1.4 BEACH AND DUNE SYSTEM

The beach and dune system at Tathra is approximately 3km long and runs in a general north to south direction with the Bega River entrance at its northern end. It is a natural feature of high environmental significance. A healthy and dynamic dune system plays an important role not only in maintaining the beach, but also as a natural buffer protecting property such as Tathra Caravan Park and other community assets beyond the hind dune.

⁴ Personal Records, R. Smith of Tathra.

⁵ Graham-Higgs and Associates (1993) *Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment of the Tathra River Estate Stage 2*, Prepared for Cuthbertson and Richards Sawmills Pty Ltd.

The beach and dune system has a long history of erosion, which was described in detail in the 1980 Tathra Erosion Study by the NSW Public Works Department. Throughout the 1970's a series of storm events severely eroded the beach and dune system. In 1978 the surf club, kiosk, Tourist Park amenities block and Council's pumping station at Hollis' Gap were at risk of being destroyed.



Tathra Beach Surf Life Saving Club - July, 1978

Since the severe storms of the 1970's the beach has recovered significantly.⁶The dune system is now characterised by an established insipient dune and foredune along most of the beach, except for the area between Hollis Gap and the surfclub, where the insipient dune is largely non-existent.

The insipient dunes and foredunes have been colonised by *Spinifex hirsutus* (Native Spinifex) and introduced *Ammophilla arenaria* (Marram Grass) and Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia var sophorae*).

At present the dune system between Bega River Mouth and Tathra Headland is relatively stable due to a relatively long period of accretion aided by controlled pedestrian access, weed eradication activity and a dune re-vegetation program.

3.2 CULTURAL SETTING

3.2.1 EUROPEAN HERITAGE

European settlement of Tathra dates back to the 1860's. Tathra became a vital link with the outside world for the Bega Valley through the wharf and associated port infrastructure. The wharf provided the opportunity for sea transportation, the export of local produce and the import of commodities not available in the then isolated Bega Valley. The Tathra Wharf is the only wharf and building combination surviving on the eastern seaboard of Australia from the period of the coastal shipping trade during the 1860's.⁷

⁶ Webb, McKeown & Associates Pty.Ltd. (2001) *Tathra Beach Coastal Hazard Study*.

⁷ Paul Davies (1991) *Tathra Wharf Conservation Plan*.

The wharf is currently listed on both the National Trust and Australian Heritage Commission registers, and is subject to a Permanent Conservation Order. It is a popular tourist attraction that draws people interested in its long history, or simply to take in the beautiful scenic views, go fishing or have lunch in the cafeteria.

Tathra Beach has traditionally been a popular summer destination for residents of Bega Valley Shire and holiday visitors. The Kiosk and the Surf Life Saving Club buildings have associations with beach use for many residents dating back to the 1950's.

Other heritage sites in the foreshore reserves include remnants of a World War 2 bunker on Tathra Headland and the concrete structures of the ferry across Bega River at Mogareeka.

3.2.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The "Yuin" or "Coast Murring" is a general name for all Aboriginal people from Merimbula to Port Jackson. The Yuin comprises two main tribes. Of these the Djiringanj tribe are recognised as the traditional owners of land between Merimbula and Wallaga Lake.

Evidence suggests that there may have been Aboriginal settlement of the Tathra area for at least 6,000 years. The area was an ideal campsite as it was rich in estuarine and forest resources and contained a source of fresh water.

Archaeological surveys undertaken for the Tathra River Estate housing development identified 21 sites of which six were considered to be major and should be protected.

The planning area has not been formally assessed but it is likely to contain Aboriginal sites and middens since middens and Aboriginal sites in this region have generally been found close to waterways.

An archaeological survey of Tathra River Estate, undertaken by Hughes & May (1982), detected several "major" and "minor" archaeological sites that occur within the reserves. The majority of sites are along the western shores of Black Ada Swamp. Other sites were found on the river foreshore reserves, with 1 major midden also being recorded.

3.3 RECREATION FACILITIES AND USE PATTERNS

The planning area contains a diversity of recreational settings each with its own use characteristics.

The Tathra Foreshore Reserves are popular with local residents and visitors to the region with peak use periods occurring during the school holidays in summer and during Easter. Outside these periods, weekends can be popular depending on weather conditions.

□ **Mogareeka – Ray Whyman and Jim Preo Reserves.**

The Mogareeka side of Bega River is popular with people wishing to launch powerboats, swim, fish and picnic. It is particularly popular with families as it offers easy access and safe swimming in the Bega River.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that this area has become busier since public access to the Bega River via Thompson's River Estate was closed.

A boat ramp and beach immediately to the west of Hancock's Bridge are major attractions for the many people who use this reserve. Picnic tables, barbeques, toilets, a beach shower and car and trailer parking are available in Jim Preo reserve. A refreshment outlet is also located here and operates during holiday periods and on weekends. Parking, a playground and picnic tables are provided in Ray Whyman Reserve, located on the eastern side of the Bermagui Road from Jim Preo Reserve.

□ **Tathra Lions Park/ Bega River Area**

This park provides locals and visitors with picnic and BBQ facilities, toilets, a beach shower, play equipment, parking and several beach access tracks. The covered barbecue facility at Lions Park is popular with large groups.

An informal gravel boat ramp can be found opposite the park on the western side of Andy Poole Drive. The gravel car park at the Bega River, west of the bridge, provides a convenient access point for swimming, fishing and bait collecting.

The coastal bushland between the Lions Park and Tathra Beach Tourist Park receives little use. The area is used primarily by fishermen and patrons of the Tathra Motor Village to access the beach.

Fishermen and surfers regularly use the car park and beach access track at the northern boundary of Tathra beach Tourist Park. In addition to the above beach access tracks there are a further two beach accesses in this part of the foreshore reserve.

A sealed multi purpose track, on the western side of Andy Poole Drive, provides a pedestrian and cycle link between Tathra and the Bega River.

□ **Taylor Square**

The northern part of Taylor Square was, until summer 1999, used for overflow camping from the Tathra Beach Tourist Park. Its main use now is for parking by people using the beach or shops on Andy Poole Drive. Taylor Square is the subject of a landscape plan incorporating Joe Caddey Park, Thatchers Flat and Kiosk area (Figure 6).

A skate bowl is located in the southern end of Taylor Square. It was designed for use by a range of age groups and is suited to competition events. There are also relatively flat areas that are suited to younger children. The skate bowl is in constant use and heaviest during school holidays and most weekends.

❑ **Joe Caddey Park/ Thatchers Flat - Kiosk Area**

This area is the main entry point to Tathra beach. Large car parking facilities are located here along with day use facilities, the surf life saving club, a kiosk and a section of beach that is patrolled during holidays and summer week-ends. Beach related activities such as swimming; surfing, sun bathing, beach play, fishing, kayaking and picnicking are popular. Taylor Square, Joe Caddey Park, Thatchers Flat along with Hobbs Corner were, up until Tathra Tourist Park was created, the main camping sites in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system.

This area is, due to its central location between the beach, surf club, various car parks and proximity to shops, a focal point for day-trippers and picnickers. Consequently traffic can often become congested and car parking difficult to find during peak holiday periods.

❑ **Vic Crowhurst Park and Hobbs Corner**

Vic Crowhurst Park provides a picnic/BBQ area, with convenient access to the kiosk/beach area via a wooden footbridge across Killarney Creek. This area tends to be somewhat less congested, with its shaded, grassed open space areas, offering a cool, relaxing alternative to the beach.

Hobbs Corner is currently used as an overflow camping area during peak holiday periods. It has 30 powered sites, and an amenity block. It is currently proposed to retain Hobbs Corner for this use (with no new fixed structures) for at least the next 5 years, commencing December 2000. For the remainder of the year it is available for recreational use, but remains under utilised.

❑ **Beach Stairs to Tathra Headland Reserve**

A walking path and stairs link the southern end of Tathra Beach to the Tathra Headland Reserve and Tathra Wharf. Tathra Wharf is the main recreational and tourist attraction in this area. Fishermen, sightseers and people interested in local history are constant visitors to the wharf year round.

The Tathra Headland Reserve incorporates the Tathra Memorial Gardens and lookout platform and offers panoramic vistas of the coastline, in particular north towards Mimosa National Park. The reserve in this area is abutted by residential development and the Tathra Hotel and Motel Complex.

❑ **Headland Reserve to Kianinny Bay**

This area remains in a predominantly natural state (except for Chamberlain Lookout above Kianinny Bay), with Melaleuca heath lining the cliff tops. A walking track offering access to many rocky shores and rock platforms extends from Tathra Hotel to Kianinny Bay.

Kianinny Bay itself is a protected bay offering a boat ramp, landing facilities and safe ocean access in most weather conditions. Bitumen parking facilities and a picnic area are also provided of this site.

The surrounding bushland provides excellent conditions for bush walking, with the Kangarutha Walking Track having its origin here and extending approximately 8 kilometres south through Bournda National Park to the Wallagoot Lake area.

The remainder of the Tathra Foreshore Reserve that extends along the southeastern side of Tathra is undeveloped bushland. The adjoining land uses to this part of the reserve are residential developments, Bournda National Park to the south, and Crown lands to the southwest.

4. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The Tathra Foreshore Reserve System must be planned for and managed in accordance with relevant legislation and Government policies of which the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, the *NSW Coastal Policy 1997* and Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 are the most significant.

4.1 CROWN LAND, THE RESERVE SYSTEM AND TRUST MANAGEMENT

The *Crown Lands Act 1989* governs the planning, management and use of Crown land, and includes provisions to reserve or dedicate lands for prescribed public purposes and for leasing and licensing. The collection of Crown land which has been set aside for a public purpose is called the Crown Reserve System.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation, together with reserve trusts appointed by the Minister, is responsible for the administration and management of the Crown Reserve System. Bega Valley Shire Council is the reserve trust manager appointed by the Minister for the care, control and management of the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System.

How Can Crown Reserves and Dedications Be Used?

Uses and activities in land reserved for public purposes are broadly defined by the public purpose of the reservation or dedication, in conjunction with any conditions and provisions within the specific zoning in the Councils local environmental plan. In addition, case law judgements influence the policy and practice of the Department of Land and Water Conservation and the Trust Managers.

The body of case law which helps define acceptable uses and activities on public recreation reserves provides the following guidance:

- Use of the reserve must be consistent with the public purposes for which the land is dedicated or reserved and ancillary to or supportive of the purpose.
- Improvements and developments to land which is reserved or dedicated are confined to those which support, or are ancillary to, the public purpose of the reservation or dedication;
- A lease or licence must be consistent with the reason or purpose of the land's reservation or dedication.
- Land reserved or dedicated for public recreation must be open to the public generally as a right. The public may only be restricted from access to parts of the reserve and buildings thereon, if it is necessary for the public's enjoyment of the reserve to be excluded, e.g. a workshop, equipment storage or operational facilities;

- Right of access does not mean entirely free access. Reasonable entry fees and charges may be imposed as well as other legal constraints to entry, such as relate to health and safety.

4.2 NSW CROWN LANDS ACT 1989

The Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management has been prepared in accordance with the principles for Crown land management as set out in Section 11 of the Act.

These principles are that:

- Environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land.
- The natural resources of the Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible.
- Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged.
- Where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged.
- Where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity and
- Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.

The Act sets out specific requirements in relation to the referral, display and adoption of a plan. The Act requires that the draft Plan be placed on public display for not less than 28 days and that the Minister for Land and Water Conservation must consider timely comment before adopting the Plan. The Minister must also refer a copy of the draft Plan to the Trustee (Bega Valley Shire Council) for consideration. The Minister may adopt a Plan of Management without alteration or with such alteration as the Minister thinks fit. Once a Plan is adopted, it must be carried out and no works may be undertaken in respect of the reserve unless they are in accordance with the Plan.

Section 106 of the Crown Lands Act provides that the net amount received as proceeds from leases, easements or licences shall, in the absence of a direction from the Minister, be applied for the general purposes of the reserve trust and may be invested or applied by the trust accordingly.

4.3 NSW COASTAL POLICY 1997

The NSW Coastal Policy was adopted by the NSW State Government in November 1997 and provides a policy framework through which effective, balanced and co-ordinated management of the N.S.W. Coastal Zone can occur. The central focus of the policy is the Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) of the Coastline. The Coastal Council of NSW is a body set up by the NSW Government and is responsible for ensuring all parties involved in the implementation of the Coastal Policy (State agencies, local councils, other public authorities and non-governmental organisations) perform their tasks effectively.

NSW Coastal Policy objectives and key actions of particular relevance to the Tathra Foreshore Reserve Plan of Management include the following:

- To identify coastal lands with conservation values and implement management strategies and controls to ensure that those values are protected.
- To identify and protect areas of high natural or built aesthetic quality.
- To ensure that risks to human safety from the use of coastal resources is minimised.
- To encourage towns to reinforce or establish their particular identities in a form which enhances the natural beauty of the coastal zone.
- Beaches, frontal dunes and undeveloped headlands will be protected and only minor developments will be permitted for essential public purposes eg surf life saving facilities.
- To design and locate development to complement the surrounding environment and to recognise good aesthetic qualities.
- Development proposals will have to conform to specified design and planning standards to control height, setback and scale to ensure public access and to ensure that beaches and foreshore open spaces are not overshadowed.
- State Government agencies, when preparing policies, programs and procedures for coastal zone planning and management, will be required to ensure they are consistent with the Coastal Policy and have regard for national and international strategies, policies and agreements.

Foreshore Reserve Plans of Management are effective tools by which Councils and the State Government can implement the requirements of the Coastal Policy and enable Councils to co-ordinate the effective management of their extensive and diverse coastal reserve systems.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) forms the framework within which planning occurs in NSW. Any works proposed on the foreshore reserve may require development consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

The EP&A Act sets up environmental planning instruments that provide a basis for development control at a state wide (state Environmental Planning Policy- SEPP), regional (Regional Environmental Plans-REP) and local level (Local Environmental Plans-LEP and Development Control Plans-DCP). Consent granted by Council must be in accordance with the planning instruments gazetted for the area.

□ Bega Valley Shire Council Local Environmental Plan

The Bega Valley Local Environmental Plan (LEP), 1997 divides the land within the Bega Valley Shire into different land use zones. Council is the consent authority for activities and developments that are undertaken in areas zoned under the LEP. The provisions for each zone include: objectives, activities allowed with and without development consent from Council and the activities prohibited. These are outlined in the LEP.

4.5 FOOD AND BEVERAGE OUTLETS ON CROWN RESERVES POLICY 2001.

This policy provides guidance for assessing food and beverage outlets and their suitability for operation on Crown reserves. In determining whether a proposal is appropriate the following criteria should be applied:

- The facility should enhance the public use of the reserve and not become the focus of the reserve;
- The integrity of the reserve in terms of its public purpose and environmental qualities should be preserved; and
- The public's right of access to the reserve should be preserved.
- Any proposal for a new food and beverage outlet must be consistent with this Plan of Management.

4.6 OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 - This Act makes provision for the conservation of threatened species and their habitat.
- NSW Heritage Act 1977 - This Act covers non-Aboriginal heritage. The disturbance of significant sites and the management maritime heritage sites is covered by this Act.
- NSW Local Government Act 1993
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Noxious Weeds Act 1993
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- NSW Coastal Protection Act 1979
- NSW Coastal Hazards Policy

PART B: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

5. BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT

The basis for management of the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management is founded on a set of agreed values for the study area. These values are the qualities of the reserves that are significant, special or important, and that the community desires to protect or enhance. A values driven approach has been taken in preference to an issues based approach, since values will tend to remain fairly constant over time, whereas issues will inevitably continue to change and evolve.

5.1 WHAT ARE THE KEY VALUES OF THE TATHRA FORESHORE RESERVES?

The reserve areas to which this plan applies are seen as having values of state and regional significance. The natural settings and cultural features are valuable in their own right, and combined with their proximity to the ocean, they offer local residents, visitors and tourists a diverse range of recreational opportunities.

The following values of the Tathra foreshore Crown reserves have been identified by the community at a series of consultation meetings held during the early stages of plan preparation.

□ Natural Values

- The foreshore reserves, including the wetlands, contain important fauna breeding and feeding habitat.
- The foreshore reserves contain remnant native vegetation communities that are examples of the area's original indigenous vegetation.
- The Tathra Foreshore Reserve System provides habitat for the conservation of native animal species including some that are threatened and vulnerable.
- The dune system is the primary protection of community assets against encroachment by the sea.
- The foreshore reserves form an important corridor between the national parks surrounding Tathra and Tathra Forest Reserve.

□ Visual Values

- The vegetation and landscape of the foreshore reserve system contributes to the informal and natural character of the Tathra landscape.
- The Tathra Wharf and headland are a significant local landmarks.
- The outstanding views of the coastline and Mimosa Rocks National Park that can be gained from the foreshore reserve system.

□ Recreational /Social Values

- The Tathra Foreshore, particularly the area by the surf club, kiosk and skate park is an important resource for the Tathra community and is a popular meeting place for people of all ages and origins.
- The Tathra Foreshore Reserve System offers opportunities for family recreation and social activities and a diverse range recreational experiences in a variety of settings.

- Visitors and residents value the access the reserves provide to the beach for recreational activities.
- ❑ **Tourism/ Commercial Values**
 - It is an important tourist destination that offers a range of recreation opportunities and experiences and a variety of tourist accommodation choices.
 - The income to the community for foreshore improvements that can be generated from commercial leases and other commercial activity on the foreshore.
 - The foreshore offers access to the beach, which is the reason most visitors come to Tathra.
- ❑ **Educational/ Scientific**
 - It provides opportunities for studying coastal processes, dune rehabilitation and weed eradication programs.
 - The Tathra Foreshore Reserve System provides evidence of the impact a community group (Tathra Landcare) can have on the management of a major noxious weed problem (Bitou bush).
- ❑ **Cultural Heritage**
 - Tathra Wharf is an important link with maritime history and the area's history of settlement.
 - The study area has a long history of Aboriginal occupation and its Aboriginal heritage has the potential to enrich the Reserves values

5.2 WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

- ❑ **Natural Values**
 - Maintain the existing diversity of the indigenous vegetation complexes and protect significant vegetation communities and habitat features.
 - Rehabilitate degraded systems and vegetation communities where appropriate.
 - Protect native fauna (aquatic and terrestrial) by protecting breeding sites and managing habitat features critical to their lifecycle.
 - Suppress noxious weeds and protect ecosystems at threat from weed species.
- ❑ **Visual Values**
 - Maintain and enhance the existing diversity of scenic opportunities and maintain visual interest.
 - Encourage the use of locally indigenous species within the reserve system.
 - Minimise visual impacts along the foreshore and surrounding areas from development and management activities.
- ❑ **Heritage/ Cultural Values**
 - Protect heritage features from damage by users and by natural processes.
 - Increase community awareness of the area's cultural heritage.
 - Ensure that planning and development in the Tathra foreshore is sensitive to Aboriginal cultural values of the area.

□ **Recreational Values**

- Provide for activities which take advantage of the natural, scenic and cultural values of the Tathra foreshore without adversely impacting on these values.
- Provide for a range of activities at suitable locations, consistent with the character and function of each area.
- Ensure visitor facilities and infrastructure on the foreshore are constructed and maintained to a high standard to meet community expectations and public safety requirements.
- Ensure that any planning for the development of foreshore facilities considers impacts of climate change. This includes the potential impact that a rise in sea level and associated increased flood risk may have on such facilities.

□ **Tourism/ Commercial Values**

- Ensure a sustainable tourism industry by careful planning to maintain and enhance those natural qualities which attract visitors to the area without disadvantaging the permanent residents of Tathra.
- Allow for commercial enterprise on foreshore land where such enterprise is appropriate to its environmental and social settings and where a clear net gain to the community can be demonstrated.

6 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The most important values and issues requiring management action and guidelines have been identified through consultation with the community, Council staff and public agencies.

Management actions and guidelines to protect values and address identified issues are grouped and presented under the following headings:

- Nature Conservation
- Dune system
- Cultural heritage
- Access
- Landscape and visual qualities
- Coastal hazards
- Reserve encroachment
- Water quality and urban run-off
- Domestic animals and fires on beaches
- Weeds
- Fire Management
- Tathra Beach Tourist Park
- Day-use facilities
- Waste management
- Risk management
- Leases and licenses
- Management and maintenance

A discussion of the existing situation, a list of management issues, the desired outcome (related to what we want to achieve) and proposed actions and guidelines are presented for each grouping.

6.1 NATURE CONSERVATION

□ *Existing Situation*

Much of the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System has been extensively modified and only isolated areas of natural vegetation remain. These areas are located north of the Tathra Beach Tourist Park to the east of Andy Poole Drive, the wetland adjacent to the Tathra Golf course and the remnant native vegetation from Tathra Headland to Kianinny Bay and Lawrence Park. These areas of remnant native vegetation form important fauna habitat corridors between Tathra Forest Wildlife Reserve, Bournda National Park and Mimosa Rocks National Park.

The wetland between Andy Poole Drive and the Tathra Golf Course is of particular conservation value. The wetland, which is important as bird and fish breeding and feeding habitat, is protected under NSW Government State Environment Planning Policy 14 *Coastal Wetlands*.

The foreshore reserves along with the sand dunes, sand bars and islands between the Lions Park and the Bega River mouth are important bird breeding grounds. They attract resident and migratory shorebirds, waders and sea birds.

The Yellow-bellied Glider, Pied Oystercatcher and the Glossy Black Cockatoo are listed as likely or known to occur in the area⁸. All are listed as “vulnerable” on Schedule 2 in the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

⁸ Graham-Higgs and Associates (1993) *Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment of the Tathra River Estate Stage 2*, Prepared for Cuthbertson and Richards Sawmills Pty Ltd.

A Little Tern colony forms in October each year in the sand above the high water mark near the mouth of the Bega River. This colony has been identified as forming an important part of the breeding population of NSW.

One of the reasons why Little Terns are endangered is because they nest on beaches where they are easily disturbed by people and predated by dogs and foxes. Fencing and signage is installed around the nesting areas annually.

Each breeding season, a dog and fox trapping program and fox baiting program has been implemented by NPWS in association with the Bega Valley Shire Council and the Rural Lands Protection Board.

Conservation of remnant native vegetation is important to ensure biodiversity, animal habitat and scenic values are retained. Relatively undisturbed natural settings have been identified as being important to residents and visitors to the area⁹. The largest tracts of remnant vegetation in the planning area can be found between Lions Park and Tathra Tourist Park and from Tathra Headland to Kianinny Bay and Lawrence Park. Smaller areas of remnant vegetation can be found on Tathra Headland and in the gully between Dilkera Rd and Pacific St. Conservation of the *Melaleuca armillaris* (Giant Honey Myrtle) vegetation community in this area is important as this vegetation provides stability to the cliff and protection from salt carrying and frequent, strong winds. Furthermore, parts of this area (Reserve 89138, Figure 4) were reserved for the preservation of native flora in 1974. Anecdotal evidence suggests a gradual loss of the *Melaleuca armillaris* vegetation between the cliff and Tathra Memorial Gardens.

Conservation of the Tathra dune system is an essential component of foreshore reserve management and is dealt with in section of this plan.

□ **Issues**

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a gradual loss of remnant native vegetation within the reserve system.
- Retention of effective habitat corridors and breeding sites.
- Loss of habitat, particularly of old large trees with hollows is detrimental to the survival of threatened species such as the Yellow Bellied Glider and Glossy Black Cockatoo.
- Protection of wetlands.
- Threatened species such as the Little Tern that annually nest at the Bega River mouth are at risk of being predated by foxes and dogs and disturbed by people.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- Conservation and enhancement of the natural qualities and ecological values of the reserve system.

⁹ ERM Mitchell McCotter (1997) *Sapphire Coast Tourism Strategy*

- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect and enhance identified natural values*)
 - a) Protect and enhance existing native vegetation communities, with particular emphasis on the dune vegetation north of Tathra Beach Tourist Park and the coastal foreshore reserve land between Tathra Headland and Kianinny Bay. Some re-vegetation may be necessary in areas where survival of native remnant vegetation is at risk.
 - b) Protect existing fauna habitat to ensure wildlife corridors between the Tathra Foreshore reserve System and adjacent parks and reserves are retained and that avifauna is encouraged to use the reserve system.
 - c) Use of local indigenous plant species will be encouraged used in landscaping works and planting schemes where appropriate.
 - d) Re-vegetation of the cliff-tops on Tathra Headland will be undertaken to ensure the survival of the *Melaleuca armillaris* (Giant Honey Myrtle) dominated vegetation community. Priority areas include those between the Memorial garden and the adjacent cliffs.
 - e) Management of wetland areas (Black Ada Wetlands) will be in accordance with NSW State Environment Planning Policy 14 and the NSW Wetlands Management Policy Action Plan 1988/ 89.
 - f) Continue working with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect the Little Tern colony and other threatened shorebirds, waders and seabirds that utilise the reserve system and the dunes, sand bars and islands of the Bega River mouth by:
 - installing appropriate educational, information and regulatory signage in approaches to bird nesting areas near Lions Park and Ray Whyman Reserve;
 - erecting fencing to protect the identified nesting areas in the Bega River mouth area before each nesting season;
 - liaising with the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding any artificial opening of the Bega River to minimise impact on the Little Tern colony;
 - enforcing Council's *Dog Control Areas* policy prohibiting dogs from entering the area between Lions Park and Bega River mouth between 1 November and 31 March each year.

6.2 WEEDS

□ **Existing Situation**

Weeds (generally introduced plant species) can impact on the conservation of local native species, recreational amenity of an area and on neighbouring property. Within the Tathra Foreshore Reserves, two of the most significant weeds are Bitou Bush and Bridal Creeper.

Bitou Bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp rotundata*) has been declared a noxious weed, is listed as a weed of national significance and as a key threatening species under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

It was introduced to control sand drift from a small section of degraded beach in Tathra in the early 60s. By 1990 Bitou Bush had spread over an extensive area of the foreshore reserves and dunes. A joint government and community eradication program began in 1991. Tathra Landcare has since undertaken an eradication and management program, with the result that the spread of Bitou Bush is now under control in the Tathra area.

However, regular site inspections and removal of Bitou Bush plants are required, as seeds can remain viable in the soil for 10 years. Tathra Landcare currently undertakes this program.

Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) is listed as one of Australia's 20 weeds of national significance. It has been identified at Tathra Headland, Mogareeka and in the banksia woodland south of Bega River between Andy Poole Drive and the beach. While there has been no local monitoring of the spread of this weed, the infestation south of Bega River is becoming severe.

Bridal Creeper is very competitive, shooting to form a dense canopy that shades indigenous shrubs, herbs and seedlings. The tuber mat forms a thick barrier just below the soil surface, which limits the access of other plants to soil moisture and nutrients. The dominance of Bridal Creeper over native species can result in loss of biodiversity and high costs in managing infestations in the reserves.

Simple physical removal has generally been found to be ineffective unless all rhizomes are dug up and destroyed. This is possible only for small areas of infestation. Other control methods include use of herbicides, biological controls and fire. A leaf rust to control Bridal Creeper infestation in the reserve near Lions Park has been released. It is part of an Australia wide trial being conducted by the CSIRO.

Other weeds with a significant presence in the foreshore reserves include Kikuyu Grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*). Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) has also been identified in the frontal dunes by Tathra Landcare.

□ **Issues**

- Bitou Bush has been the most significant noxious weed in Tathra. While it is currently under control, it requires a regular and long-term control program.
- Bridal Creeper is present in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System. Its abundance, distributions and rate of spread has not been systematically recorded, but anecdotal evidence suggests its rate of spread is rapid. Of concern is the lack of a current management program in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system to control this weed.
- Colonisation of Tathra Beach by Sea Spurge

□ **Desired outcomes**

- Control and where possible, eradication of noxious weeds in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System.

- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect natural values, in particular protect ecosystems at threat from weed species.*)
 - a) Treat noxious weed infestation in accordance with the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.
 - b) Assist Tathra Landcare, where appropriate, with their current program of Bitou Bush eradication and management.
 - c) Develop a local integrated management plan to control Bridal Creeper in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System. Funding will be sought to implement the plan, which will include the following components:
 - Evaluation of the extent of Bridal Creeper infestation and its rate of spread.
 - Management of existing infestation.
 - Prevention of further spread.
 - Monitoring.
 - d) Prevent other weeds from becoming established in the foreshore reserves by prompt response to reports of their presence, following regular monitoring by weed officers and/or Landcare group members.

6.3 THE DUNE SYSTEM

□ *Existing Situation*

The dune system at Tathra is a natural feature of high environmental significance. It provides the primary defence against severe storm events and protection to reserve users from strong on shore winds.

Dunes are formed by the action of waves and wind, and sand trapped by salt tolerant grasses such as Native Spinifex (*Spinifex hirsutus*) and introduced Marram Grass (*Ammophilla arenaria*). However, these grasses are also highly susceptible to trampling and with excessive traffic can easily be damaged, resulting in destabilisation of the dunes.

In recent history Tathra beach has experienced severe storm events resulting in major erosion of the beach. The most recent severe event occurred in 1978, which caused a number of assets to be under threat. These included surf club clubhouse, the kiosk, the sewage pumping station at Hollis Gap, caravan park sites and its two amenities blocks and power lines located behind the dunes¹⁰. Research by the Public Works Department led to the following conclusion:

“It is felt that, without a long term program of monitoring beach behaviour and flood events, it is not possible to predict with confidence the future of the coastal plain. Hence the development of the seaward side of this zone should be restricted accordingly.”¹¹

¹⁰ NSW Department of Public Works, (1980). *Tathra Erosion Study*.

¹¹ NSW Department of Public Works (1980). *Tathra Erosion Study*, p55.

Most of the Tathra Bay dune system is now relatively stable due to successful dune restoration and re-vegetation works and controlled pedestrian access.

Natural vegetation consisting of Coastal Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*), Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var *sophorae*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and Coast Tee Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) has been successfully established behind the fore dunes in this area.

Some recent vegetation loss is evident on the foredune adjacent to the Tathra Tourist Park in front of the cabin precinct and the annual holiday van sites. Also, some Coastal Wattles planted during the dune stabilization program on the foredunes adjacent to the Tathra kiosk and between the surf club and Hollis Gap have died. There appears to be no re-growth to replace these plants. Evidence of recent dune erosion can be found along the southern bank of Bega River near Lions Park.

Potential colonisation of the dunes by Bitou Bush remains a constant concern.

□ **Issues**

- Re-vegetation is required on sections of dunes where the coastal wattle has died. The area where loss of vegetation is most noticeable is between Killarney Creek and Hollis Gap and in front of the Tathra Beach Tourist Park cabin precinct.
- Fencing designed to protect the dunes from damage by indiscriminate public access is ineffective and in need of urgent repair. The fence is constructed partly on the back of the dune and should be relocated further west.
- Uncontrolled access to the beach and Bega River from Lions Park is causing erosion of the riverbank and development of informal tracks across the dunes.
- Vegetation appears to have been illegally removed from the dunes in front some sites of the Tathra Beach Tourist Park to enhance views of the beach.
- Research indicates that public and private assets in the immediate hind dune area are at risk from erosion.¹²

□ **Desired Outcome**

- Protection of the dune system to ensure its vegetation is maintained and the dune ecology is not degraded.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect identified natural and educational/ scientific values, in particular the dune system as a primary defence of community assets against encroachment by the sea.*)

- a) The Tathra dune system will be managed in accordance with guidelines in The Department of Land and Water Conservation's Coastal Dune Management: A Manual of Coastal Management and Rehabilitation techniques. (2001)
- b) Replant sections of the dune system where dieback of previous planting is evident. Priority will be given to areas south of the Tourist Park.

¹² Webb, McKeown & Associates Pty.Ltd. (2001) *Tathra Beach Coastal Hazard Study*.

- c) Control pedestrian traffic to the beach throughout the foreshore reserves by providing well-maintained beach access ways and by installing, replacing and re-locating fencing as required.
- d) Continue Council support to the Tathra Landcare group with its current program of Bitou Bush eradication and management.
- e) Educate patrons of the Tourist Park and install signage regarding benefits of retaining native dunal vegetation communities.
- f) Implement a dune and foreshore rehabilitation and protection program adjacent to the Lions Park, through fencing of direct pedestrian access to the eroding foreshore area and replanting informal tracks and disturbed dune areas.
- g) Any artificial opening of River Mouth to be as far northwards as possible.

6.4 COASTAL HAZARDS

□ *Existing Situation*

The primary objective of the NSW Coastal Hazard Policy 1990 is to reduce the impact of coastal hazards and to reduce losses resulting from natural coastal forces through the application of effective planning and development controls and by undertaking timely and effective mitigating works and other measures.

The Tathra beach and dune system has a long history of erosion and accretion. The most recent series of storm events that severely eroded the beach and dune system occurred in the late 1970's when in 1978 the surf club, kiosk, Tourist Park amenities block and Council's pumping station at Hollis' Gap were at risk of being destroyed.

In 2000 Council and the Department of Land and Water Conservation engaged Webb, McKeown and Associates Pty.Ltd. to prepare a coastal hazard study for Tathra Beach. This study provides vital data on coastal hazard risks associated with ocean storm bite in combination with sea level rise and is presented in the form of hazard lines for 1 in 30yr, 1 in 50yr and 1 in 100 yr storm events.

Tathra Beach Coastal Hazards Study has major implications for the placement of infrastructure within the Tourist Park and will be the catalyst for the gradual removal of permanent infrastructure from the beach-front sites within the Park.

*The study concluded that "it would appear likely that for the 30 year period, developments affected by erosion would include the restaurant, surf club, caravan park amenities block, and approximately 10% of the caravans and permanent caravans in the Caravan Park. Additionally, in the 100 year period, the sewage pumping station, disused amenities block, skateboard park, as well as a further 15% of the caravans, would be affected by the erosion. In the 100 year period the surf club, restaurant, and the caravan amenities buildings are all within the erosion zone."*¹³

¹³Webb, McKeown & Associates Pty.Ltd. (2001) *Tathra Beach Coastal Hazard Study*. P10

□ **Issues**

- Some assets in the foreshore reserves are within the 30 year hazard line and for the 30 year period would be likely to be affected by erosion. These include the restaurant, surf club, caravan park amenities block, and approximately 10% of the caravans and permanent cabins in the Caravan Park. In the 100 year period the sewage pumping station, skateboard park and a further 15% of the caravans would be affected by erosion.
- Risk to public and private assets from beach and dune erosion caused by severe weather events.

□ **Desired Outcome**

- Public and private assets planned, constructed and sited to minimise risk of destruction by beach and dune erosion.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines.** (*To protect identified recreation and tourism/ commercial values.*)

- a) Current permanent infrastructure (The Surf Club, Kiosk and Sewage pumping station) located on the Tathra Foreshore Reserve within the 1 in 50yr hazard line will not be replaced once they reach the end of their economic life. An alternative site near the new toilet block, surfclub carpark adjoining grass areas in Joe Caddey Park (as shown on Figure 6) will be reserved for the future re-development of the surfclub and kiosk. No new major permanent infrastructure will be placed within this reserved area.
- b) The future placement of permanent infrastructure will be outside the 1 in 50 yr hazard line (as defined in Tathra Beach Hazard Study¹⁴). Exceptions may include minor facilities such as viewing platforms proposed for Taylor Square. Locating viewing platforms behind the foredunes is unlikely to cause any hazard to users and they can be easily relocated.
- c) All Tathra Beach Tourist Parks sites within the 30yr hazard line to be classed as Tourist or Camp Sites.
- d) Council's Engineering Services Department undertake an investigation of options for the relocation of the Hollis Gap sewage Pump Station outside the identified 100 year hazard line

6.5 FIRE MANAGEMENT

□ **Existing situation**

Bega Valley Shire Council as Trustee of the Crown reserves comprising the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System has a responsibility under the Rural Fires Act 1997 for prevention, mitigation and protection of persons from injury or death and for protecting property from damage, and the protection of the environment. Under section 63(1) of the Act it is the duty of a public authority to take steps to prevent the occurrence of bushfires and to minimise the danger of the spread of a bush fire from land under its control or management.

¹⁴ Webb, McKeown & Associates Pty.Ltd. (2001) *Tathra Beach Coastal Hazard Study*.

The risk of wildfire entering the Tathra foreshore Crown reserves from adjacent public land is not great since the reserves have only short common boundaries with adjacent forested areas. The most likely source of wildfire in the Tathra reserves is from deliberately lit fires or from Bournda National Park.

Within the Tathra foreshore Crown reserves, the greatest potential fire risk is in the forested reserve on the south-east/southern side of Tathra. This area contains vegetation that can become dry and flammable (Melaleuca Armillaris and Accacia longifolia). There are also a number of locations in this area where property is relatively close to flammable material in the reserve. Threats would be greatest during periods of strong south-easterly winds.

Access to and within the forested areas of the reserve system is by major perimeter roads such as Andy Poole Drive, Panamuna Rd, Illoura St and Bay St and fire management tracks between Kianinny Bay and the Tathra Pre School/ Lawrence Park and short access tracks between Kianinny Bay and the Headland.

The reserve area north of Tathra Tourist Park could be accessed from the beach in an emergency.

BVSC Deputy Fire Control Officer has indicated that at least a 15 metre fire break between all property assets and potential fire hazards within the reserves would be an appropriate fire control strategy. All material should be removed from the buffer zone and the area kept slashed.

Where a 15 metre fuel reduction zone and fire management access zone is achievable, Bega Valley Shire Council's Deputy Fire Control Officer considers that there is no need for fuel management through prescribed or controlled burning. The possible exception to this may be the area of dry sclerophyll forest adjacent to the Tathra pre-school and Tathra Oval Reserve 59605 in which a 3-4 yearly fuel reduction burn should take place depending on fuel build up. This is also where fire is likely to enter the reserve system from adjoining Bournda National Park.

□ **Issues**

- The risk to people and property in areas within and adjacent to the Tathra foreshore Crown reserves from fire entering and leaving the reserves requires management.
- Some fuel-free or fuel reduced zones between the foreshore reserve and private and public property, in particular between Kianinny Bay and the Tathra Headland, are narrow in parts and need to be widened.
- Dumping of rubbish, tree cuttings and logs is causing a build up of combustible material in some parts of the foreshore reserve system.
- An inappropriate fire regime can adversely affect the ecology of the foreshore reserves.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- A fire management regime in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System to achieve on-going protection of life, property and natural values of the Tathra foreshore reserves and its neighbours.

- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (To protect the identified natural values achieve the above Desired Outcome. See also Figure 9)
 - a) Manage the risk of fire within the Tathra Foreshore Reserve management system in accordance with the Rural Fires Act 1997 and Bega Valley Shire Bushfire Risk Management Policy.
 - b) Establish and maintain fuel free and fuel reduced zones between foreshore reserves and property. Where suitable fuel free, fuel reduction zones and fire management access corridors have been established, fuel management through prescribed or controlled burning will generally not be undertaken.
 - c) A reduction or modification of fuels (by fire or other means) may be carried out in Reserve 69605 (between Kianinny Bay and Tathra Oval) when assessed as needed by Council's Fire Control Officer.
 - d) Maintain fuel free zone around the southern side of the Tathra urban area by removal of illegal structures and dumped material and educating residents about maintaining the area free of dumped or stored material.
 - e) Fuel reduction burns are not considered necessary in the area north of Tathra Tourist Park, east of Andy Poole Drive and in the Gully between Pacific St and Dilker Rd.
 - f) Investigate illegal dumping of rubbish in foreshore reserves and undertake appropriate punitive action.
 - g) The Fire Control Officer or local brigade Captain, consult with the relevant management committee prior to undertaking controlled burning in Reserve areas.

6.6 CULTURAL HERITAGE

6.6.1 EUROPEAN HERITAGE

- **Existing Situation.**

Tathra wharf and the adjacent Reserve are listed on the National Trust, Australian Heritage Commission and NSW State Heritage Inventory registers and subject to the statutory obligations of the Heritage Council of NSW Permanent Conservation Order and non statutory obligations of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) classified.

The Statement of Significance for the Wharf and Reserve (Register of the National Estate) is:

As a deep water ocean wharf, Tathra Wharf is extremely rare. Following demolition of Merimbula's wharf Tathra is the only wharf of its type on the NSW south coast. (Criterion B.2) The wharf provides a link with the coastal steamer trade, which for many decades fulfilled a major role on the NSW coast.

Further, the wharf was the main shipping point for produce from the rich Bega Valley and it reflects Tathra's importance as the prime port for this south coast hinterland (Criterion A.4) The wharf and its associated structures are important examples of shipping structures from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the two storey shed shows elements of high quality workmanship (Criteria D.2 and F.1).

The Wharf is Crown Land (R 180056) designated as *Public Access and Heritage Purposes and Public Recreation*. BVSC is appointed by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation as Trustee of the reserve and by its powers of delegation under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council has appointed the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee for the care, control and management of the Wharf.

A conservation plan for the wharf was prepared in 1991.¹⁵ The plan was required to include the following:

- An outline of the history and development of the property
- An analysis of physical and documentary evidence including analysis of the yards and race
- Identification of significant features of the building and site
- A statement of significance
- A study of suitable sites for a new toilet block
- Identification of constraints on the property
- A conservation policy for the site with guidelines for implementation
- Consideration of the form of suitable future development on and around the site to conform to the Conservation policy.

The following items of the Conservation Plan have been implemented:

- The wharf building and other surfaces have been repainted
- Some site interpretation has been implemented
- The cattle yard and race have been restored
- A new toilet block has been constructed
- An interpretation strategy for the site to present and preserve heritage values of the site (Tathra Wharf Committee Strategic Plan 1998)¹⁶

The Conservation plan also recognised the following actions (yet to be implemented):

- A maintenance program be planned and undertaken with an appropriate budget.
- A development plan for the headland established prior to any further decisions being made about particular aspects of the site- such as parking, and access (pedestrian and vehicular).

It is now more than 10 years since the Conservation plan was prepared and a review is considered appropriate. Some concern has been expressed about safety and pylon maintenance issues at the Wharf.

¹⁵ Paul Davies (1991) *Tathra Wharf Conservation Plan*

¹⁶ Ray Christison Organisational Learning (1998), *Tathra Wharf Committee Strategic Plan*

□ **Issues**

- Tathra has a rich maritime history and a visually imposing wharf and building but as yet a museum that takes advantage of this resource has not been established.
- The wharf and building are in constant need of maintenance but no asset management plan and budget have been implemented. A recent study¹⁷ itemised the following maintenance priorities and improvements:
 - Relocate power board to reduce risk of fire;
 - Install a fire detection and suppression system;
 - Minimise bird droppings onto building and its resultant damage;
 - Improve drainage from the Wharf building downpipes;
 - Repair exterior of building;
 - Weather proof the museum part of the building so it is suited to the storage/ display of artefacts and heritage material;
 - Inspection and replacement of wharf supports and decking as required.The same study also recommended an assessment of legal requirements with respect to safety equipment provision and disabled access.
- Visitor safety is a concern, wharf decking is damaged and a regular safety audit has not been undertaken.
- Vehicle and pedestrian access to the wharf is inadequate.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- A sound asset management plan to ensure appropriate maintenance of the site and adequate funding so the wharf is protected from damage by users and from natural causes remains structurally sound and safe for visitors to enjoy now and in the future.
- Increase public awareness of the area's cultural heritage by interpretation of the maritime history of Tathra Wharf and its surrounds to residents and visitors.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines** (To protect identified cultural heritage values. In particular, Tathra Wharf as a link with the area's maritime history and settlement.)

- a) Update the *1991 Tathra Wharf Conservation Plan* by preparing an Asset Management Plan for the site. Much of the work proposed in the 1991 plan has been completed (cattle yard and race, toilets, painting) and new conservation priorities are likely to have emerged. Until the Asset Management Plan is completed the conservation policy contained in the *Tathra Wharf Conservation Plan 1991* will apply.
- b) As an interim measure, until the asset management plan is completed, an annual maintenance program and budget will be prepared co-operatively between BVSC, Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee and the lessee of the Café to ensure that urgent maintenance items are addressed. The maintenance program should address;

¹⁷ Spoehr, D. and Towns S. (2001) *Conservation Assessment of the Tathra Wharf Museum*. for the Museums & Galleries Foundation of NSW.

- The structure of the wharf platform (pylons, cross bracing),
 - The condition of the platform timbers and railing,
 - Electrical system and location of the power board.
 - Fire detection and suppression.
 - Condition of building cladding and drainage
- c) A full safety and security audit of the Tathra Wharf and buildings will be undertaken in association with the lessee, wharf user groups and Bega Valley Shire Council
- d) The Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will be encouraged to implement the *Tathra Wharf Committee Strategic Plan 1998*. Implementation of the short-term priorities is suggested. They are:
- Development of a business plan
 - Investigating initiatives to create an income stream
 - Improve Government and Corporate support
 - Interpret the Wharf and its history.
- e) The issue of access to the wharf is considered in detail in Section 6.8.3 of this Plan of Management.

6.6.2 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

□ *Existing Situation.*

Evidence suggests that there may have been Aboriginal settlement of the Tathra area for at least 6,000 years. The area was an ideal campsite as it was rich in estuarine and forest resources and contained a source of fresh water.

“...Aboriginal populations in the most recent pre-contact phase were semi-sedentary and did not move widely within the coastal landscape, but lived in large, densely populated river mouths. A study of Aboriginal sites in the region north of Bega River found that Aboriginal sites generally occurred on flat areas along ridges or less commonly, flats adjacent to creeks and rivers. Middens were generally found closer to the waterway’s edge while artefacts were found on ridge lines.” (Sinclair, Knight, Mertz; *Tathra Sewerage Augmentation*, October 1997.

The planning area has not been formally assessed but verbal communication with representatives of the Bega Local Aboriginal Elders Council suggests that Tathra foreshore reserves contain Aboriginal sites and middens.

An archaeological survey of Tathra River Estate, undertaken by Hughes & May (1982)¹⁸, detected several “major” and “minor” archaeological sites that occur within the reserves. The majority of sites were along the western shores of Black Ada Swamp. Other sites were found on the river foreshore reserves, with 1 major midden also being recorded.

¹⁸ Hughes & May (1982) in William Barber Archaeological Services (1993) *Tathra River Estate: An Archaeological Review*.

Bega Valley Shire Council has a statutory obligation to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage places, sites and relics under NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protection Act 1984. It is an offence under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to knowingly destroy, deface, or otherwise disturb an Aboriginal relic without the permission of Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Commonwealth Act prohibits anyone from defacing, damaging, interfering with or endangering an Aboriginal place unless the prior consent from the local Aboriginal community has been obtained in writing. Site disturbance may also impact on historic places through the degradation of the spiritual, cultural and landscape values.

Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the three Land Councils of its Area and a Traditional Elders group. Amongst other things, the Memorandum requires Council to consult the group before finalising any plan of action for lands where Aboriginal heritage significance may exist. Council is currently working with the Land Councils to develop cultural sensitivity mapping for the Shire. This mapping will define the consultation levels and processes for defined areas.

It is likely much of the study area of this plan comprises areas of sensitivity and as such Council will consult the Bega Land Council in the preparation of this plan and finalisation of the draft following public exhibition.

Site inspection will likely be required in the finalisation of any detailed work plans – particularly where surface modification may occur.

The Djiringanj Aboriginal People have lodged a native Title claim (NC 97/28) with the Native Title Tribunal over land that includes Crown land in Bega Valley Shire. This claim is currently before the Federal Court. Council has registered as a party in the determination of this claim and hopes to perform a role in a mediated solution- perhaps as part of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

□ ***Issues***

- Aboriginal sites, artefact sites, middens and significant flora of the Tathra foreshore reserves have not been identified and assessed.
- In order to comply with the National Parks and Wildlife Act, the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council should assess sites in the foreshore reserves prior to any construction works commencing.
- The Bega Local Aboriginal Lands Council is not represented on the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee.

□ ***Desired Outcomes***

- In association with the Bega Aboriginal Land Council and Bega Traditional Elders Council identify, assess vulnerability and develop protection/conservation strategies for Aboriginal sites, middens, significant flora and fauna and artefacts. Interpret these where appropriate.

- *Management Actions and Guidelines (To protect the identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values.)*
 - a) As much of the planning area is likely to comprise areas of sensitivity, Council will consult the Bega Land Council in the preparation of this plan and its implementation.
 - b) An Aboriginal Assessment Report will be prepared for the planning area to identify culturally significant sites, assess their vulnerability and develop strategies for their protection.
 - c) Encourage the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council to participate in planning and management of the Tathra foreshore reserves by membership of the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee.
 - d) All aspects of Aboriginal site planing and management will include the Bega Local Aboriginal Land Council.
 - e) Aboriginal relics and sites will be protected by ensuring that, wherever possible, infrastructure is located so as not to adversely impact on artefact sites or other sites of cultural significance.
 - f) Establishing a protocol whereby foreshore reserve sites subject to disturbance from construction or improvement are assessed by Site Officers of the Bega Traditional Elders Council prior to commencement of works.
 - g) Contractors and Council staff will be made aware that in the event of any bones, stone artefacts, or discrete distribution of shell being unearthed during construction, works will cease and the BVSC, Bega Local Area Land Council and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service informed of the discovery. Works will not proceed until the material has been inspected and permission given to proceed.

6.7 TATHRA BEACH TOURIST PARK

There are currently about 230 Caravan Parks being operated on Crown reserves throughout New South Wales. The role of these parks is to provide, within each Park, a broad range of quality accommodation facilities, which cater for all sectors of the tourist accommodation market from tent sites to ensuite cabins. The Parks also provide a valuable income stream, which enables reserve trusts to undertake ongoing maintenance, management and development of public recreation and tourism facilities located on Crown reserves.

The Tathra Beach Tourist Park provides visitors to the area an opportunity to experience a beachside holiday, whilst also providing tourism dollars for the local economy and essential funds for the improvement of Crown reserve facilities at Tathra.

For the last 10 years Council has worked with the Department of Land and Water Conservation to reduce the area of foreshore Reserve alienated by the Tathra Beach Tourist Park. This has been undertaken in stages resulting in the main Caravan Park body being confined to the North of Hollis Gap.

The community has benefited greatly through gaining permanent access to 300 metres of foreshore reserve formerly occupied by the Caravan Park; including Taylors Square and Joe Caddey Park.

6.7.1 TOURIST PARK DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMMODATION

□ *Existing Situation*

Tathra Beach Tourist Park is located on two separate sites within the Tathra foreshore reserve system. Both are Crown Land Reserves. The main part is located immediately north of Hollis Gap and extends approximately 500 metres to the north. This area contains 184 sites made up of the following:

Long term sites (permanently occupied.)	2
Holiday Vans (Privately owned, on-site, year round, annual licence)	73
Tourist sites (Sites available to the travelling public)	84
On-site vans (available to the travelling public)	1
En-suite cabins (available to the travelling public)	11
Camp sites (available to the travelling public)	13
TOTAL	184

The site is located behind the foredune which is now stable due to a relatively long period of accretion aided by controlled pedestrian access, weed eradication activity and a dune re-vegetation program. Some park infrastructure is located within the 30 and 50 year hazard lines and will be relocated.

Overflow camping during peak holiday periods is provided in Hobbs Corner (31 camp sites). Camping will continue to be permitted in this site subject to a review every five years.

When considering options for the future development of the Tathra Beach Tourist Park all proposals must be consistent with the requirements of the following policies and legislation:

NSW Coastal Policy

Of particular relevance is the Coastal Policy objective of development location and design being such that it complements the surrounding environment and recognises good aesthetic qualities. All buildings, including cabins must be well designed and landscaped to improve the appearance of the park. The Andy Poole Drive boundary of the park must be landscaped to provide a visual screen to improve the appearance of the current holiday van precinct.

Whilst there are no sites on the foredune, consideration will also need to be given to the possibility of reducing the total number of sites in order to accommodate more landscaping, open space and importantly address coastal hazard constraints.

The Crown Lands Caravan Parks Policy, 1990 (currently under review).

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- develop a caravan park and camping ground system on Crown land which meets the needs of the community and provides a range of facilities for short-term use, long-term use and camping

- manage caravan parks on Crown land in an environmentally acceptable manner, to provide for protection of important scenic, natural and cultural resources in a manner consistent with the objectives and principles of the Crown Lands Act 1989.
- ensure that caravan parks and camping grounds on Crown land are managed in a way that provides appropriately for the recreational and social needs of the community.
- encourage the entrepreneurial management of caravan parks on Crown land in order to provide the community with an appropriate standard of facility and the Government with an optimum financial return for the lands it provides.

NSW Coastal Hazard Policy 1990

The primary objective of this policy is to reduce the impact of coastal hazards and to reduce losses resulting from natural coastal forces through the application of effective planning and development controls and by undertaking timely and effective mitigating works and other measures.

The 2001 Tathra Beach Coastal Hazard Study provides vital data on coastal hazard risks associated with ocean storm bite in combination with sea level rise and is presented in the form of hazard lines for 1 in 30yr, 1 in 50yr and 1 in 100 yr storm events. This study has major implications for the placement of infrastructure within the Tourist Park and will be the catalyst for the gradual removal of permanent infrastructure from the beach front sites within the Park.

Local Government (CC & CG & MD) Reg 1995

Stipulates requirements in relation to design, site requirements, setback, utilities and services and general health and safety issues. Caravan Parks must be designed in accordance with these regulations and an approval to operate must be issued by Council under Section 68 of the Local Government Act (1993). The prior consent of the Minister for Land and Water Conservation is required to the issue of approvals for Caravan Parks on Crown reserves.

□ Issues

- The proposal to install an additional 60 cabins (75 in total) as contained in the development lease entered into by Council has been strongly opposed by the Tathra community. (As evidenced by public submissions to Development Application 00.1569 and the public consultation undertaken during the preparation of this Plan of Management.) The Department of Land and Water Conservation by letter of 5 December 2001 have advised that “the Department is not prepared to support any redevelopment plan for the Caravan Park which involves the allocation of more than 40 sites for use as park cabins”.
- The proposal to increase the number of cabins in the Tourist Park to a total of 40 is based on;
 - a demonstrated demand for cabin accommodation
 - the number being significantly lower than the 75 cabins proposed in DA 00.1569 and rejected by the community
 - the income additional cabins would generate for use in implementing Taylor Square and other foreshore reserve improvements for the benefit of the broader community.

- Public consultation undertaken during the preparation of this Draft Plan has identified an opinion in the community that cabin numbers in the Tourist Park should be limited to 20.
 - New developments must conform to NSW Coastal Hazards Policy 1990 and no new UMD's or permanent structures may be placed within the coastal hazard zone (1 in 50 year hazard line). It is noted that parts of the current cabin precinct and the whole central amenities block are located in the 1 in 50 year hazard line zone.
 - Costs associated with the Tourist Park upgrading requirements are high and Council's ability to raise fund to undertake works required in the Tourist Park is limited. Given Council's borrowing capacity is restricted and regulated by the State Government, any borrowing for the Park might limit Council's access to funds for other important public works across the Shire.
 - Concern has been expressed about the visual appearance of Tathra Tourist Park as viewed from Andy Poole Drive. The Tourist Park from this perspective presents a mixture of caravans, annexes, gas bottles, storage lockers and plumbing. The 1996 Draft Plan of management for Tathra Coastal and Foreshore Regional Reserves recommended screening of the park, but to date this has not been done.
 - Height limitations on landscaping and built structures have been suggested so as not to unduly inhibit views from properties adjoining Andy Poole Drive.
 - The contribution of the Tourist Park to Tathra's peak season sewage load and sewage treatment system. The implementation of this Plan of Management however is likely to reduce rather than increase the total number of park sites due to the car park at the northern end of the Park being enlarged, cabin sites requiring more land than tents or caravans and some sites being partially occupied by new landscaping.
- ***Desired Outcomes***
- A tourist park that is designed and landscaped to complement its surrounding natural environment while meeting the needs of the travelling public for holiday accommodation.
 - A tourist park that returns the best possible income stream to Council for improvement of the remainder of the reserve while addressing the requirements of government and the reasonable expectations of the community.
- ***Management Actions and Guidelines.*** (To protect and enhance the identified recreational, tourist/ commercial and visual values.)

The following guidelines represent Council and the Department of Land and Water Conservations basic principles under which the Tathra Beach Tourist Park would be developed regardless of the eventual management arrangements of the Park.

It should be noted that there is a significant correlation between the number of cabins in the park and the income stream that may be used for improvements to Taylor Square and other sites in the Tathra foreshore reserves.

Final layout would be subject to a Development Application process.

Long-Term Sites (Permanent)

- No new long-term residence sites will be provided and current sites will be phased out through natural attrition.
- Consent to assign or sub-let a residential tenancy agreement will not be granted.
- When existing sites are vacated by the current residents these sites will revert to short term sites.

Tourist And Camp Sites (Vacant Sites)

- A minimum of 30% of the total number of sites within the Park are to be classified for use by campervans, tents and towing caravans. This figure does not include camp sites at Hobbs Corner
- Camping will continue to be permitted in Hobbs Corner during peak holiday periods subject to a review every five years.
- Sites within the 30 year hazard line that currently contain cabins will, once the cabins are relocated, revert to tourist and camp sites.

Park Sites (Park owned accommodation)

- Park owned accommodation facilities must be provided in a range of styles that cater for all markets from budget style facilities through to family units and luxury ensuite spa cabins.
- A maximum 40 Park Sites will be permitted to be occupied by Park owned UMD's (cabins). However, final numbers will be determined through the Development Application process.
- Cabin development must be sympathetically designed and constructed using materials and colours that compliment the landscape and setting. No two storey cabins will be permitted on the park. Their design requirements will be such as not to unduly restrict views from properties adjoining Andy Poole Drive.
- A minimum of one specialised disabled use cabin to be provided in the Park
- All new UMD's or permanent structures are to be placed behind the 1 in 50 year coastal hazard line.
- Existing UMDs within the 1 in 30 year storm hazard line are to be relocated behind the 1 in 50 year hazard line the end of their economic life or within 5 years of the making of this plan-whichever is the earlier. Following relocation, some land may be used for landscaping improvements, minor recreational facilities and the remainder will revert to tourist or camp sites.

Holiday Sites (Sites occupied by private vans or UMDs)

- The maximum number of Holiday Van Sites permitted on the park is to be capped at the current level (73 sites). Holiday Van sites however may be re-classified as Tourist, Camping or Park sites as the need arises.
- All Holiday van owners must enter into a written short-term licence agreement for the hiring of the site occupied by their caravan or UMD. The term of such hiring agreements will be for a maximum period of 12 months, After each 12-month period holiday site occupiers' licence agreements will be reviewed by management/ Reserve Trust.

- Owners of privately owned vans or UMD's must obtain permission to sell their van "on-site". Any consent given will be on the basis that the purchaser enters into a written agreement which acknowledges that they have no ownership in the site and may be required at the end of the term of their hiring agreement to either vacate the park or relocate to another site.
- Privately owned vans will not be permitted to be replaced by unregistered movable dwellings (UMD's).

General Conditions

- Park to be maintained to at least a 3½ star rating.
- All existing sites within 30yr hazard line to be classed as Tourist and Camp Sites, therefore only being available for use by campervans, tents and towing caravans. This will ensure that this zone can be quickly vacated when major storm events occur.
- Current permanent infrastructure (including central amenities block) within the 1in 50yr hazard line will not be replaced once it reaches end of economic life, with particular emphasis on the existing cabin precinct adjacent to Hollis Gap. (Cabins are to be relocated behind the 50 year hazard line at the end of their economic life or within 5 years of the making of this plan-whichever is the earlier.)
- The future placement of permanent infrastructure will be outside the 1in 50 yr hazard line (as defined in Tathra Beach Hazard Study).
- Any shop proposed in the Tourist Park must be ancillary to Park operations, conform to use permitted in a 6(a) Zone under the Bega Valley Local Environment Plan 1987 and would be prohibited from servicing outside clientele.
- No two storey built structures will be permitted in the park. Building design requirements will be such as not to unduly restrict views from properties adjoining Andy Poole Drive.
- Development consent and a new Approval to be obtained for any alteration endorsed on the adopted plan of management to the current approved Caravan Park.

6.7.2 TOURIST PARK MANAGEMENT

□ Existing Situation

The Bega Valley Shire Council is Trustee for the Tathra Beach Tourist Park. A Committee of Management with a salaried resident manager operated the park until 1995. In 1995 a Plan of Management was established with a five-year program of works and a Contract Manager appointed.

“By 1998 the park’s presentation had been substantially improved, services and facilities upgraded and cabin accommodation installed.”¹⁹

¹⁹ Cosgraves 1999, *Report on the Management Alternatives for the Tathra Beach Tourist Park*

A management consultant's report²⁰ in 1999 identified that improved management and income from the park would be achievable from a private long term lease of around 20 years. Council resolved at that time to pursue the development of a 20 year lease and call tenders

At the Council meeting on 18 April 2000 Council resolved to enter into a 20-year development lease, subject to consent by the Department of Land and Water Conservation, as the preferred management model. Revenue generated from the lease would fund the maintenance and development of Tathra's foreshore reserve as described previously.

The Council's preferred tenderer proposed a lease premium of \$650,000 and an annual lease fee of \$150,000 (indexed) per annum (based on development as indicated in the tender), with all infrastructure and accommodation improvement costs being met by the lessee. A critical component of the proposed lease is a requirement to allow the lease to redevelop the park and operate up to 75 cabins.

Following consideration of public consultation held over the past 12 months the Department of Land and Water Conservation advised Council on 5 December 2001 "The Department is not prepared to support any redevelopment plan for the Caravan Park which involves the allocation of more than 40 sites for use as park cabins."

Council proposes to defer any final decision on the preferred management option for the Caravan Park until the plan of management has been finalised and adopted by both Council and the Minister.

□ **Issues**

- Community is concerned that public access through the Tourist Park to the beach is maintained. There is uncertainty about adequate access being maintained under a leasing arrangement.
- Preliminary consultations with the public have indicated support for retaining the more direct Council management role as opposed to a 20 year private lease.
- The likely lease premium and annual rental from leasing the Tourist Park will be influenced by the outcome of this Plan of Management. Most significantly by the number of cabins and level of park security that will be permitted. Consequently the difference in financial benefit to the community from leasing the park and from greater Council involvement in management may not be determined until this Plan of Management is adopted.
- The greater access that a private lessee would have to capital to upgrade the Park at a much faster rate than Council could achieve. Council as Reserve Trust Manager would have to rely on funds generated from Park trading and from Department of Land and Water Conservation funding / loans (Public Reserve Management Fund) to finance Park upgrading.
- Holiday van owners have a number of concerns relating to annual fees and retention of the ability to trade in vans, which they fear may be affected by a long-term lease.

²⁰ Cosgraves 1999, *Report on the Management Alternatives for the Tathra Beach Tourist Park*

- ***Desired Outcomes***
 - Park management that is consistent with public access, aesthetic and other principles stated in this Plan of Management and ensures a maximum financial return to the Bega Valley community from using foreshore reserve land for tourist accommodation.
 - Retention of the main Caravan Park for 20 years with a decision to be made after 15 years as to the future of the park.

- ***Management Actions and Guidelines. (To protect and enhance the identified recreational and tourism/commercial values.)***
 - a) Council will, on completion of this Plan of Management, carry out a financial assessment of leasing the park or operating the park under direct Council management. The assessment will be based on the conditions set out in the adopted Plan of Management. These conditions will refer to the following:
 - access;
 - security;
 - landscaping;
 - maintenance standards;
 - Park improvements (and the rate of upgrading achievable);
 - Accommodation mix.

 - b) On determination of which management structure provides the community with the best return, Council will resolve the management structure for the park and the Park will be managed in accordance with the principles stated in this Plan of Management (**in particular Section 6.7**) for a term of up to 20 years.

 - c) The future of the caravan park and the foreshore reserve on which it is located will be reviewed in 15 years. **This review should be reflected in any further management or lease arrangements for the caravan park.**

6.7.3 ACCESS AND SECURITY

□ ***Existing Situation***

Residents and visitors to Tathra have had un-hindered access to and through the Tourist Park and security has been low. Access has been readily available to the Park's playground, barbecue areas and amenity blocks, when open. This level of access has been more a result of past management style rather than any specific Crown Lands or Council policy. Since 1995 Park managers have restricted use of the Tourist Park facilities to patrons and encouraged the public use access ways only.

No legal right of public access to the Park exists beyond the controlled direct access between Andy Poole Drive and the beach. Caravan park occupants have a right to quiet enjoyment of their site in the Park. Therefore controlled access through the park is appropriate but unauthorised access is inappropriate.

Security is an on-going issue at the Tathra Beach Tourist Park. Two security guards have been employed by the Park between Christmas and the end of January each year to patrol the Park grounds between 10pm and 4am each night.

Providing maximum level of security by fencing the Tourist Park and allowing only one beach access point through the Park is demonstrably not acceptable to a large proportion of the Tathra community.

□ **Issues**

- Some level of security is essential to the effective and efficient management of all caravan and camping parks. This may take the form of physical barriers such as fences and hedges and/or personnel to patrol the property.
- The relationship between security, park access and commercial value of the park.
- In recent years security has become a concern to park management. The Trustee of the park has a responsibility to ensure an adequate level of security is provided for the safety and protection of park patrons.
- A 1.8metre perimeter fence and limiting beach access through the park to one or two points would provide a high level of security, but is not supported by a large proportion of the Tathra community.
- If landscape planting is to be used as a form of security and improve the park's visual appearance from Andy Poole Drive, plants will need to be protected until they are mature and form an effective barrier. Plant protection is likely to take the form of a fence (a 1.2 metre post and rail fence between the landscaping and the Tourist park may be suitable.).
- Tathra Beach Tourist Park has traditionally been used by parts of the Tathra community to access the beach.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- Provision of access to the beach through the caravan park that meets the needs of the public and the rights of caravan park occupants to quiet enjoyment of their sites.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect and enhance the identified tourism/ commercial and recreational values.*)

- a) Park security will be provided by a combination of landscape planting of the Andy Poole Drive boundary and security patrols during peak holiday times. (Details of security patrol use will be a commercial decision to be taken by park management.) A log rail fence, 1.2m in height, may also be used to protect landscaping and direct people around the landscape barriers to the defined access points.
- b) The existing style of fencing on the northern, southern and beachfront boundaries will be retained and strengthened with landscape planting where required.
- c) Perimeter landscape planting specifications will be prepared by Council and incorporated in any lease requirements;
- d) Public access to the beach through Tathra Beach Tourist Park will be ensured by the provision of three sign posted public access points between the main park entrance and its northern boundary (Figure 8). These access points will be in addition to the northern carpark beach access track. All access points will be available to the community 24 hours per day.

- e) Close southern beach access past sewer pump station as it is surplus to current needs and will allow for revegetation and protection of this vulnerable section of dune
- f) People using the beach at night will be encouraged to exit the beach by one of the Taylor Square beach access ways and a point at the car park to the north of the caravan park by lighting these points.

6.8 RECREATION AND TOURISM

The Tathra Foreshore Reserve System supports a range of recreational experiences. It is known for its beaches, surf, visitor facilities and fishing waters. This section of the Plan of Management will develop guidelines and management actions to enhance the recreation and tourism values of the planning area. Specifically, a landscape concept plan has been prepared for Taylor Square, Joe Caddey Park and Thatcher's Flat area based on the actions and guidelines developed in this section.

6.8.1 DAY USE FACILITIES

□ Existing Situation

Picnic tables, barbeques and playgrounds are provided throughout the reserve system. Toilets open to the public are located at Jim Preo Reserve, Lions Park and Taylor Square, Hobbs Corner (during holidays), Tathra Wharf and Kianinny Bay.

Thatcher's Flat, Joe Caddey Reserve, Taylor Square and Vic Crowhurst Park are the most popular areas for day visitors as they offer convenient access to shops, amenities, parking and the beach. These areas were maintained by Tathra Beach Tourist Park staff until mid 2000 when the Bega Valley Shire Council Town Maintenance team took over.

Many of the picnic tables and seats in this area are in poor condition and need to be replaced. Damaged items are being repaired as an interim measure until they are finally replaced in accordance with the recommendations of an adopted Plan of Management. A new playground, to be called Lot Stafford Memorial Playground, has been planned in Joe Caddey Reserve as a replacement playground.

Among young people the most popular facility in the foreshore area is the skate park. It receives high volume of use during holiday periods and on most weekends.

Tathra Lions Club have indicated a desire to support the construction of a new playground in this area to replace the playground in the Tathra Tourist Park which, until recently, been accessible to non-park patrons.

Day use facilities, including toilets are also provided in the Lions Park south of Bega River, in Jim Preo and Ray Whyman reserves and Kianinny Bay. Overall these are in good condition.

However many barbeques and tables in Lions Park are below standard and given this site contains about 30 tables and about 22 barbeques, including a large covered barbecue area, it may not be necessary to replace all below standard items.

Jim Preo Reserve is an attractive site with excellent views, parking, a boat ramp and a safe swimming beach. A replacement jetty is planned for this area.

For many visitors to Tathra, their first experience of the foreshore reserve system is Tathra Headland as it is where the town's main access road ends. Tables and seats, a viewing platform, a memorial garden and a walking path (suited for disabled) are provided. Extensive landscaping has been carried out but there is still scope to provide additional shade and wind protection at tables.

The NSW Government recently acquired three portions of land (approx. 1.8ha) on the south eastern side of Tathra Headland under the Coastal Lands Acquisition Scheme and have transferred ownership to Bega Valley Shire Council. The land has been cleared for many years, with maintained kikuya now the predominate ground cover. The site provides spectacular views south along the cliffed coastline and a wide panoramic ocean view, making it popular with sightseers.

□ **Issues**

- Much of the recreational infrastructure in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system is old and in need of replacement.
- Maintenance of infrastructure such as tables and seats, fences and vegetation
- During the holiday season demand for playgrounds exceeds supply.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- Provision of facilities and infrastructure that is safe and meets Australian Standards to facilitate enjoyment of the diverse natural, scenic and cultural values of the Tathra foreshore without adversely impacting on these values.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines.** *(To protect and enhance the identified recreational/ social values.)*

- a) The current number of day use sites is considered to be adequate. Visitor facilities in these sites will be provided to meet the needs of a range of visitors while taking into consideration the character and function of each area.
- b) Implement the landscape plan for Taylor Square, Joe Caddey Park and Thatcher's Flat (See Figure 6) incorporated in the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management as approved by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation.
- c) A landscape plan will be prepared for the Tathra Headland in order to complete landscaping commenced by the construction of the memorial gardens. A formal car park, bus parking, directional and interpretive signage and additional planting to provide sun and wind shelter will be incorporated in the plan.
- d) Develop a plan to identify costs of repair and replacement and required standard of visitor facilities and infrastructure within the Tathra foreshore reserves. These standards will be consistent with existing budgetary and financial constraints and meet required risk management guidelines.
- e) Lions Park will continue to be managed so as to cater for large and small groups. Damaged tables and barbeques will be removed, some of which may not be replaced.

- f) A landscape plan will be prepared for Lions Park. This plan will incorporate layout of tables and barbeques, design standards, vegetation layout and planting scheme and design for low cost maintenance.
- g) Jim Preo and Ray Whyman reserves will cater for visitors using the Bega River for swimming, fishing, boating and picnicking. A landscape concept plan has been developed for this area (see Figure 7) which proposes the following improvements :
 - Provision of more picnic tables and bbq facilities
 - Tree planting program for landscape and shade purposes
 - Grassing bare areas.
 - Shade for picnic tables.
 - Formalising the northern car park if existing parking fails to meet demand.
 - Landscaping works along the riverbank to stabilise the bank and improve user safety.
 - Improved maintenance of boat ramp (See Section 6.7.4)
- h) Construct a new jetty in Jim Preo reserve to replace existing structure. The jetty will be based on a floating pontoon to cater for fluctuating river heights particularly when the mouth is closed for extended periods of time.
- i) The newly acquired 'Community Land', will be maintained as a grassy open space, lookout area. There is a need to erect new fencing on the coastal edge of the parcel of reserve and erect appropriate risk management signage. A picnic table will be installed as funding allows.

6.8.2 VEHICLE ACCESS

□ *Existing Situation*

Car parking in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system (but not including Tathra Headland and Wharf) is currently adequate for all but the busiest peak holiday periods and on some summer weekends. On these occasions Vic Crowhurst Park, the car park adjacent to the old town tennis courts, Andy Poole Drive and Dilkera Road serve as overflow parking.

Parking capacity at the boat ramp on the northern shore of Bega River is adequate for most of the year but in future signage may be required to delineate areas reserved for trailer parking. Anecdotal evidence suggests that use for boat trailer parking increased during the 2000/ 2001 summer holiday season. It has been suggested that the increase was due to closure of the Tathra River Estate access to Bega River. If the trend were to continue, some increase in parking capacity in Jim Preo Reserve may be warranted.

In recent years the parking area on the south east side of Bega River has deteriorated. Its capacity for parking was reduced and the surface quite badly eroded as a result of riverbank collapse a few years ago. Water and sediment run-off at this site has been an issue.

Parking capacity at the Tathra Headland is adequate for cars but lacks structure, form and signage. The parking area size and layout is inadequate for the number of tour busses that visit the site.

There is currently no signage at the car parking informing visitors of the memorial gardens, the viewing platform or the stairs to the wharf. The headland area offers an excellent opportunity to design and install interpretive signage about the significance of the headland, its history and maritime history of Tathra.

The bitumen parking facilities at Kianinny Bay are excellent and cater particularly well for trailers. The Chamberlain lookout car park and access road are both surfaced with gravel and, given their popularity, could warrant being sealed should funds become available.

Parking capacity at Tathra Wharf is not adequate for existing levels of use. This matter is discussed further in Section 6.8.3 of this Plan.

The need to provide for disabled parking at major foreshore reserve car parks was raised during community consultations carried in the development of this plan. It was considered particularly important to provide disabled parking adjacent to the kerb ramps in the kiosk parking area in Thatcher's Flat and at the headland adjacent to the paved paths of the Tathra Memorial gardens. Both sites receive large numbers of visitors and provide good disabled access beyond their respective car parks.

□ **Issues**

- The poor physical condition of some car park surfaces and potential sedimentation of adjacent waterways.
- Increased demand for parking, particularly for trailers, in the Mogareeka and Bega river mouth area during peak holiday periods.
- Congestion in Thatcher's Flat car parks at peak holiday periods and on some weekends. Demand for parking in this area is likely to increase in future.
- No disabled car parking spaces are allocated in existing car parks.
- Bus parking is inadequately catered for in the Tathra beach area. Tour bus traffic is likely to increase when the Bermagui to Tathra road is sealed.
- Parking at Tathra Headland parking has not been developed to a standard that is in accordance with the qualities of the headland and community expectations.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- The provision of vehicular access to the range of recreational facilities and opportunities on the foreshore reserve system without adversely impacting on the natural values of the area.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines.** *(To protect and enhance the identified natural, recreational and tourism values.)*

- a) Increase the capacity of car parking in and adjacent to the foreshore reserve areas by;
- formalising and improving the layout of the car parks on the south east side of Bega River and in Jim Preo Reserve,
 - increasing the size of the car parks adjacent to the old Tathra tennis courts and the northern boundary of the Tourist Park (subject to the future layout and management of the Tourist Park),

- incorporating parking in Taylor Square and Tathra Headland landscape plans.
- b) Implement a program of progressively upgrading the surface quality of all carparks in the foreshore reserves using a range of surface treatments (bitumen, reinforced grass, concrete, etc) depending on the specific site requirements, intensity of use, environmental and aesthetic sensitivities. Priority will be given to those car parks adjacent to waterways where sediment run-off has been identified as a potential issue.
 - c) Disabled access to the reserve system and beach will be improved by the installation of disabled parking signs at key locations. Priority will be given to installations at Thatchers Flat adjacent to the kiosk, and at Tathra Headland car park
 - d) Make provision for bus parking in landscape and traffic management plans for Tathra Headland.
 - e) Vehicles (with the exception of emergency service vehicles) will not be permitted on any beaches adjacent to the Tathra foreshore reserves.
 - f) Design and construct a board and chain or closely spaced timber emergency vehicle access at the existing degraded pedestrian access point to the north of the Country Club. The new access structure will double as a pedestrian access for the majority of the time and vehicle access will be regulated by locked chain gate. Site design will also have to allow for heavy machinery access through this access point.

6.8.3 ACCESS TO TATHRA WHARF

□ Existing Situation

The road to the Wharf via the headland was badly damaged by heavy seas in the mid 1970's... Since the original storm damage the road was closed and there has been ongoing erosion of the remaining road surface, sub-grade and cliff areas above and below the road resulting principally from rainfall runoff.

Access to Tathra Wharf is currently along a steep road that ends in a small turning area bounded by a cliff, the sea and Tathra Wharf and platform. Parking space at the wharf is inadequate, with most cars parking on the road-verge of the access road. This arrangement does not meet legal parking requirements as vehicles are too close to the centre line.

This has previously resulted in wharf patrons being issued with infringement notices. Access to the Wharf by bus is very difficult due to the small turning area at the Wharf.

Pedestrian access to the Wharf is also considered to be unsatisfactory. Pedestrians can get to the wharf either by walking along the narrow road from the Hotel, walking from the headland via the Memorial Gardens and the stairs leading to the main access road or by walking along what remains of the old access road around Tathra Headland.

The lack of lighting in the wharf car park, along the access road and stairs to the headland has been raised as an issue in terms of both safety and security, particularly for pedestrians.

The Tathra Area Committee and Tathra Chamber of Commerce have listed re-instatement of this road as the most important tourist infrastructure improvement required in Tathra.

□ **Issues**

- Motor car, bus and pedestrian access to Tathra Wharf is inadequate to meet existing demand.
- Ongoing erosion is causing environmental damage and also creating serious public safety risks with regard to trip hazards, pavement width and stability and falling rocks from the cliff areas above the road.
- Capital costs of upgraded vehicle access to the wharf are high and would require State or Federal Government financial assistance.
- Within the Shire of Bega and Tathra foreshore reserves, there are many projects competing for limited financial resources.
- Potential risks to pedestrians using the old access road during severe storm conditions.

□ **Desired Outcome**

- An improvement in the standard of public access (pedestrians, cars and busses) to Tathra Wharf.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines.** *(To protect and enhance the identified recreational and tourism values.)*

Within the context of improving access to Tathra Wharf and current availability of Council funds, priority will be given to maintaining vehicle access and parking at existing standards and the construction of a disabled access compliant path along the route of the old road. Additional car and bus parking will be provided on the headland by formalising existing parking arrangements.

- a) Should funding become available, a full feasibility study of reinstating the old access road and alternative transport modes will be undertaken. Such a study will include:
 - An assessment of government policy constraints
 - geo-technical survey
 - coastal hazards assessment
 - engineering and environmental constraints
 - projected costings
 - an investigation of alternative modes of transport
- b) Investigate alternative methods of providing access from Memorial gardens area to the Wharf

6.8.4 BOATING FACILITIES

□ *Existing Situation*

Excellent ocean access is provided at Kianinny Bay. A bitumen road, boat ramp, parking for cars and trailers, toilets, fish cleaning table and picnic facilities are available. Fishermen are not permitted to leave fish cleaning spoil in Kianinny Bay. The site is managed and maintained by the Tathra Amateur Fishing Club.

The study areas other major boat ramp facility, is located at the northern side of the Bega River in Jim Preo Reserve and is managed by Council.

This boat ramp and parking are in good condition, however sand tends to build up at the bottom of the ramp and cars can become bogged when the sand depth becomes too deep. This situation may be averted by a routine maintenance program.

Discussions with stakeholders suggests that boat and trailer traffic in the Bega River/ Mogareeka area increased significantly during the 2000/ 2001. It has been suggested that closure of vehicle access to the Bega River through Tathra River Estate resulted in more people launching boats from the Mogareeka/ Bega river mouth area.

Installation of “*Trailer Only Parking*” signage has been suggested for the trailer parking area in Jim Preo Reserve. However there is some doubt about the need for this action since the trailer parking area is used to capacity for only a few weeks each year.

Fish cleaning facilities are often provided close to boat ramps popular with fishermen. In areas such as Kianinny Bay where visitor numbers are high, a fish cleaning facility is provided, but fish remains cannot be left at the site. Fish carcasses are often dumped in the Bega River to the south-west of Hancock’s Bridge. This area is not popular for swimming, and at the time of preparing this plan fish carcass dumping did not appear to cause problems for other users.

Fish are regularly cleaned on the wooden jetty at Jim Preo Reserve with fish heads and carcasses being left in the adjacent shallow water. This has caused some dissatisfaction with families with young children who swim in the adjacent shallow water. A fish cleaning table installed a short distance to the west of the jetty, on the old concrete punt platform, may avert any future conflict arising from fish cleaning at this site.

An informal gravel boat ramp has formed on the south side of Bega River, west of Hancock’s Bridge. This tends to be used by smaller boats as the water is very shallow.

□ *Issues*

- Boat access to the ocean and river is essential to tourism in Tathra.
- The boat ramp at Mogareeka tends to become silted with sand and be difficult to use by 2wd vehicles.

- The Bega River area at Mogareeka appears to be becoming increasingly popular for boat launching and could lead to a shortage in trailer parking in future.
 - There is potential for conflict between swimmers and fishermen as a result of fish cleaning waste being left close to popular swimming areas such as the Bega River at Jim Preo Reserve.
- ***Desired Outcomes***
- Provision of well maintained boat launching facilities to meet the needs and expectations of residents and visitors without adversely impacting on other recreational users of the foreshore reserves
- ***Management Actions and Guidelines (To protect and enhance the identified recreational values.)***
- a) High standard boat launching facilities will be provided in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system by implementing a regular inspection and maintenance program. Particular attention will be given to removing built up sand from the ramp at Jim Preo Reserve.
 - b) Car and trailer parking at boat ramps will be monitored during peak holiday periods (in particular at Mogareeka) to assess the need for “*trailer parking only*” signage or construction of additional car or trailer parking spaces.
 - c) Fish cleaning facilities will continue to be provided at major boat launching ramps in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system. A new fish cleaning table will be installed in Jim Preo Reserve to the west of the small wooden jetty, on the old concrete platform.
 - d) Construct a new jetty in Jim Preo reserve to replace existing structure. The jetty will be based on a floating pontoon to cater for fluctuating river heights particularly when the mouth is closed for extended periods of time.

6.8.5 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

□ ***Existing situation***

Eight beach access paths are provided between Killarney Creek and the Tathra Tourist Park. The five access paths north of the surf club are constructed from treated pine handrails, three strand wire fencing and wooden duckboards covered by sand. These are in reasonable condition and require only minor maintenance.

The two access points on either side of the surf club are hard surfaced. The surface of the access-way to the south of the kiosk is sand. The two access ways either side of the kiosk are the most important in the reserve system as they are the points through which most people visiting or resident in Tathra access the Tathra beach. This area is seen by many as Tathra’s gateway to the beach and warrants significant upgrading from its current run-down state.

Stairs lead to the beach from Cliff Place on the headland, from the top of Andy Poole Drive and from Dilkera Road. These are important access stairs as they are the only safe way by which pedestrians can access the beach from these areas. Dilkera Road and Beach Hill (Andy Poole Drive) are unsafe for pedestrians as the roads are narrow, visibility is poor and they carry heavy volumes of traffic.

Access to the beach through the Tathra Beach Tourist Park has been traditionally permitted at 5 locations. Issues associated with these are discussed in section 6.7 of this plan.

Another 3 beach access-ways (in addition to Lions Park) are provided between Tathra Tourist Park and Bega River. These are in satisfactory condition. The two opposite Tathra Motor Village are located in the Permissive Occupancy granted to the Motor Village. A condition of the Permissive Occupancy is that the Motor Village is responsible for the maintenance of these access-ways.

It would appear that the number of beach access-ways currently provided is adequate to meet community needs. However, it was suggested during public consultations associated with developing this plan, that the number of beach access-ways between the surf club building and the Tourist Park could be reduced.

The bitumen surfaced multi-purpose track adjacent to Andy Poole Drive between Bega River and Tathra commercial area is in good condition and very popular.

A walking track has recently been constructed from near Chamberlain Lookout above Kianinny Bay to the bottom of Beach St near Tathra Hotel. This track consolidates a number of informal tracks that had evolved in the area and may assist in the preservation of this environmentally sensitive coastline by reducing erosion and conserving remnant native vegetation.

However, on going maintenance of the track itself and adjacent vegetation will be necessary, particularly as the track is exposed to the cliff-top in a number of locations. Directional and interpretive signage of this track would enhance visitor enjoyment and appreciation of the natural values of this part of the reserve system.

Linkages between the above walking track, the track from Wallagoot Lake to Kianinny Bay, paths in Tathra and walking tracks in Mimosa Rocks National Park warrant further investigation.

Pedestrian access to the wharf is by a set of stairs from the headland memorial garden or by the road verge along the wharf access road. The stairs are not well signposted and still require some walking along the existing access road. Pedestrian access to Tathra Wharf is dealt with in more detail in Section 2.8.3 of this plan.

□ ***Issues***

- Resources required to maintain foreshore access infrastructure
- Pedestrian linkages between Kianinny Bay, the headland and Tathra Beach are not well signposted and can be difficult to find.
- Pedestrian access from Tathra headland to the wharf is unclear and poorly signposted and at a grade unsuitable for people with even minor mobility impairments.

□ ***Desired Outcomes***

- Provision of a system of well maintained and safe access points to the beach and the foreshore reserves to facilitate public appreciation of the reserves' natural, visual and cultural values.

- ***Management Actions and Guidelines*** (To protect and enhance the identified recreational/ social values.)
 - a) Maintenance and construction of pedestrian paths, tracks, bridges, lookout platforms, stairs and other infrastructure will conform to the appropriate Australian Standards including those Standards applicable to disabled access.
 - b) Safe beach access will be provided by undertaking regular inspection and maintenance of beach accesses-ways and stairs.
 - c) The area between the multi purpose track and Andy Poole Drive from Bega River to the Tathra commercial area will be mulched and planted to reduce maintenance costs. A mix of low and medium sized plants will be used to ensure public safety is maintained.
 - d) The number of beach access-ways to be provided between the surf club and Hollis Gap will be considered in the landscape concept plan for Taylor Square (see Figure 6).
 - e) Encourage people using the beach at night to access the beach via Taylor Square access ways and the public car park at the northern end of the Tourist Park by providing night lighting at these sites.
 - f) Links between pedestrian tracks, paths and stairs within the reserve system and with those immediately adjacent to the reserve system (eg Kangarutha Walking Track) will be signposted using low key signage which is consistent with signage currently being installed in the Tathra foreshore reserves. Small trailheads (including some interpretive information and maps) will be constructed at each end of the coast walk which starts close to Chamberlain Lookout
 - g) New infrastructure and replacement of old infrastructure will be disabled access compliant.
 - h) Replant cliff top areas and / or install fencing along tracks constructed near cliffed or steep areas.

6.8.6 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL QUALITY

□ ***Existing Situation***

The visual quality of Tathra derives from its setting on the coast with a backdrop of forest and slopes. The natural settings are valued by Tathra's residents and its visitors alike.

Some public views within the foreshore reserves are especially important and need to be maintained by careful pruning of trees and shrubs, but without adversely impacting on the natural values of the reserves. Key vantage points include the lookout and car park on Tathra Headland, and Chamberlain Lookout.

Public consultation revealed a concern in the community that maintenance of Taylor Square had been inadequate in recent times. Tathra Headland car park (the point of arrival to Tathra for many visitors) was identified as visually unattractive as it has not been properly constructed and has the appearance of ad hoc development.

Concern has been expressed about the visual appearance of Tathra Tourist Park as viewed from Andy Poole Drive. The Tourist Park from this perspective, presents a mixture of caravans, annexes, gas bottles, storage lockers and plumbing. The 1996 Draft Plan of management for Tathra Coastal and Foreshore Regional Reserves recommended screening of the park, but to date this has not been done. (See Section 6.7.1 of this Plan)

□ **Issues**

- Public consultation has suggested Taylor Square and the headland car park appear run-down and poorly maintained.
- There is no visual theme utilised in the reserve system in terms of plant species, park furniture design, materials and colour.
- There is currently no continuity of a visual or landscape theme along Andy Poole Drive to the north from Beach Hill. Landscaping in this precinct offers an opportunity to create a sense of arrival and a sense of place.
- Landscaping should be designed so as not to unduly restrict views from properties adjoining Andy Poole Drive.
- Vegetation between Lions Park and Tathra Tourist Park can become a safety hazard if not regularly mown and cut back.

□ **Desired Outcome**

- Enhancement and protection of the visual and landscape values of the reserve system, particularly the headland and the beach area adjacent to Andy Poole Drive.

□ **Management Actions and Guidelines** (To protect and enhance the identified visual, tourism and natural values.)

- a) A maintenance program incorporating watering, replacing broken fencing, pruning trees and shrubs, removing dead vegetation matter and prompt attention to damaged infrastructure will be developed for the Foreshore Reserve system to ensure safety and maintain a cared-for appearance. Maintenance of key visual corridors will be included.
- b) The visual qualities of key locations in the reserve system will be enhanced by development of landscape plans as funds allow. (Taylor Square/ Joe Caddey/ Thatchers Flat area and Jim Preo/ Ray Whyman Reserves are incorporated in this Plan of Management),
- c) Planting guidelines will be developed for precincts within the reserve system using, wherever possible, plant species indigenous to the local area.
- d) Design standards will be developed for reserve infrastructure and visitor facilities.
- e) Adjacent property owners will be consulted about proposed landscape plans to, wherever possible, identify and maintain important sight-lines from adjacent properties.
- f) All buildings, including cabins in the Tathra Beach Tourist Park will be designed and landscaped to improve the internal and external appearance of the park.

6.9 OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

6.9.1 WASTE MANAGEMENT

□ *Existing Situation*

Waste bins (240-litre type) are currently provided at most popular locations in the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System and collected by *The Waste People*, a contracting company engaged by Bega Valley Shire Council.

The bins are emptied twice weekly throughout the year and daily during the peak holiday period. Recycling is not included in the current waste management arrangements.

Volunteer Surf Life Savers and Council Life Guards manage litter on the patrolled section of beach at Tathra. Collecting litter from the beach is part of the duties of the Life Guards employed by Council during peak holiday periods.

Litter bins throughout the reserve system are mostly free standing. Consequently they tend to detract from the reserves' visual amenity.

Household rubbish is often dumped into these bins and when this occurs in peak holiday periods, they quickly fill up and other waste is then deposited on the ground around the bins. This practice is most noticeable at locations such as Lions Park and Taylor Square.

Council maintenance crews collect litter from foreshore reserves. However, during peak holiday periods, because of the volume of litter and competing demands, these crews cannot always respond to the litter problem as quickly as it appears.

□ *Issues*

- The rate at which bins are filled is often faster than the rate at which they are able to be emptied, with the result being that some sites contain unacceptable volumes of litter.
- Litter on Tathra Beach.
- Household waste being illegally dumped into public litter bins.
- The high cost of waste and litter management.

□ *Desired Outcomes*

- A reduction in the volume of litter left on the ground in the reserve and on the beach in order to enhance visual and recreational values of foreshore reserves.

- **Management Actions And Guidelines** (*To protect and enhance the identified visual values.*)
 - a) Visitors to the foreshore will, where appropriate, be encouraged to take their rubbish away with them when they leave.
 - b) A range of approaches to litter management in the foreshore reserves may be trialed. These may include:
 - Removal of litter bins from some sites and installing signage asking visitors to take their rubbish and litter with them when they leave. Low visitor frequency sites, accessed principally by motorcar (eg Chamberlain Lookout), could be suitable trial sites. High use sites such as Lions Park and Jim Preo Reserve will be excluded from the trial.
 - Provide more bins or service them more regularly at high impact/ high use sites such as Tathra Wharf and Taylor Square.
 - Use bins designed to be more attractive and to reduce dumping of household rubbish.
 - c) Continue to develop strategies with Tathra Surf Club to reduce litter on Tathra Beach and reduce the visual appearance of bins in the Tathra Beach area.

6.9.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

□ **Existing Situation and Discussion of Strategic Actions**

There are inherent and accepted risks associated with the use of all public reserves and recreational activities in coastal areas. Minimising these risks is a fundamental objective of reserve managers. Elimination of all risk is impossible, however strategies can be established to actively manage risk. Such strategies may involve *"the systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the task of identifying, analysing, treating and monitoring risk"*²¹

Bega Valley Shire Council has adopted a beach signage policy relating specifically to risk management. This policy is focused on the installation of signs at beach entry points throughout the Shire, warning visitors of the dangers associated with the beach and ocean. A total of approximately 21 signs were proposed for Tathra beaches and 2 for Kianinny Bay.

□ **Issues**

- Community concern expressed at standard of infrastructure and park furniture maintenance
- Variations in standards of infrastructure and maintenance.

□ **Desired Outcomes**

- Develop programs and policies that are achievable, taking into consideration budgetary and resource constraints.
- A formal Asset Management Plan developed and implemented for inspecting, assessing, actioning and reporting on infrastructure, equipment and facilities in Tathra Foreshore Reserves.

²¹ Standards Australia, (1999) AS/NZS 4360:1999. *Risk Management*, Standards Australia, Canberra.

- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect and enhance the identified recreational values.*)
 - a) Develop an Asset Management Plan to incorporate the following components:
 - Construction standards for infrastructure that comply with Australian Standards.
 - Maintenance standards to comply with Australian Standard, (1999) AS/NZS 4360:1999. *Risk Management*,
 - Procedures for infrastructure inspection, assessment, recording and maintenance.
 - A risk audit.
 - An emergency response plan incorporating:
 - search and rescue
 - bush fire threat;
 - storm events;
 - law and order incidents;
 - b) Continue to implement the Bega Valley Shire Council beach signage policy.
 - c) In the short term ensure beach access tracks, stairs, viewing platforms and visitor facilities are constructed and maintained to comply with Australian Standard DR99196 with regard to Councils budgetary and financial constraints.

6.9.3 RESERVE ENCROACHMENT AND UNAUTHORISED ACTIVITIES

□ **Existing Situation**

Unauthorised private use of public land within the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system is occurring through activities such as:

- storing vehicles, boats and wood. (in some cases, such as short term storage of surf boats in Joe Caddey Reserve by the Tathra Surf Life Saving Club, storage of boats may be appropriate.)
- storing or dumping of building materials, timber, firewood, garden refuse,
- clearing of vegetation to improve foreshore views
- unauthorised erection of private permanent or temporary structures in reserves

While this problem is by no means restricted to Tathra, reserve encroachment is occurring at various sites around Tathra. These encroachments can restrict access, inhibit public enjoyment of an area and also have a detrimental effect on the natural environment.

□ **Issues**

- There is evidence between the headland and Kianinny Bay, of vegetation being cut to enhance private views and use of reserve land for storage of private goods.
- Encroachment into public lands by adjoining owners.

- ***Desired outcomes***
 - Protection of the area’s natural values through a reduction in illegal vegetation clearing and non-conforming uses within the Tathra Foreshore Reserve system.

- ***Management Actions and Guidelines (To protect and enhance the identified natural and recreational values)***
 - a) All vehicles, vessels, firewood and stored goods are to be removed from the reserves.
 - b) The clearing of vegetation to improve foreshore views is prohibited. The issue of vegetation removal for fire protection is largely site specific and as such larger firebreaks may be permitted in some instances.
 - c) An under scrubbing buffer zone up to 5 metres from the property boundary for the purposes of fire control is permitted. Written permission must be obtained from Council for fire protection works beyond the 5 metre under scrubbing buffer zone.
 - d) All rubbish dumping is prohibited.
 - e) The erection of private permanent or temporary structures in reserves is prohibited.
 - f) The use of the reserve system as an access to private property can not be assured and may be phased out in the future.

6.9.4 LEASES AND LICENSES

- ***Existing Situation***

Leases, licenses and permits set out the rights, responsibilities and conditions under which land in the foreshore may be occupied by commercial or community groups.

The Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves Policy, 2001 provides for assessing food and beverage outlets which may be acceptable and those which may not be acceptable on Crown reserves. The policy contains the following assessment criteria:

- The facility should enhance the public use of the reserve and not become the main focus of the reserve;
- The integrity of the reserve in terms of its public purpose and environmental qualities should be preserved and;
- The public’s right of access to the reserve should be preserved.

These conditions are considered to have been met by the outlets operating at Tathra Wharf, Tathra beach kiosk and Jim Preo Reserve.

A license to operate the Tathra Beach Tourist Park has been issued as an interim measure until the long term management of the Park is resolved. In recent years a license to operate a carnival in the foreshore area during the summer school holiday period has also been issued.

The experience of the Tathra foreshore reserves is enhanced for many people by the services provided by occupiers of these leases and licenses. These leases and licenses also generate a valuable income stream to the community.

In accordance with the Crown Lands Act, this income (estimated at approximately \$27,000 annually, excluding income from the Tourist Park) must be used for the maintenance of and improvements to reserves from which the income is derived.

The Tathra Beach Bowling Club is currently seeking a 20 year lease from Bega Valley Shire Council over part of Reserve 79310, which includes an indoor bowls building, shedding and the old town tennis courts (see Figure 10).

This proposal has previously been subject of a public exhibition and subsequent Council resolution, which supported the leasing of the former tennis courts to the Bowling club.

The land is no longer required for public tennis courts as six courts, four of which are synthetic all-weather courts, are located at the Tathra Country Club. Furthermore, the visitor facilities proposed for Taylor Square/ Joe Caddey Reserve (Figure 6) should meet community needs for open space recreation for the foreseeable future.

The Club proposes to construct an additional bowling green, landscape the site and install public facilities such as picnic tables and seats. At the expiry of the lease term, community needs may dictate the need to alter the landuse for this area. It is envisaged that a review process would commence about five years before the expiration of the proposed lease term.

Tathra Amateur Fishing Club holds a lease directly with the Department of Land and Water Conservation at Kianinny Bay that incorporates the clubhouse and the BBQ/picnic area. Club members, on a voluntary basis, carry out maintenance of the vehicle manoeuvring areas, boat ramp and fish cleaning facilities. The sealed access road to Kianinny Bay currently has no legal status under the Roads Act.

The Tathra Surf Life Saving Club currently holds no lease over the land occupied by the clubhouse or the store attached to the amenities building in Joe Caddey Reserve. The Club therefore has no real security of tenure. The clubhouse is a valuable community asset as it is the base for surf club activities and is frequently used by the community for meetings and a variety of functions.

The Tathra Beach Motor Village holds a permissive occupancy over about 12.68 hectares of land in Reserve 79310 opposite the caravan park, for the purpose of beach access for its patrons. This permissive occupancy was granted by DLWC in conjunction with the caravan park lease to place the responsibility for constructing defined pedestrian access ways to the beach, on the lessee. Conditions associated with the Permissive Occupancy require the tenant to remove all Bitou Bush and rubbish from the area and control pedestrian access in such a manner as to avoid erosion to the sand dunes. It is now considered appropriate for the management and control of this area to revert to the Reserve Trust.

Licenses have been issued to conduct temporary community and commercial activities in the foreshore area, such as learn to surf and an annual entertainment carnival. Up to now the permits have been specific to one-off activities.

Approval has recently been granted by Council for a *learn to surf* activity to be conducted at Tathra Beach during summer holidays. The license is valid for a three year period.

□ ***Issues***

- Lease agreement over part of Reserve 79310, which includes the indoor bowls building and the old Town Tennis Courts have not yet been concluded between Tathra Beach Bowling Club and Bega Valley Shire Council. The Department of Land and Water Conservation has indicated that a resolution of the lease application will be made by the Department in accordance with the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management currently being prepared. A small area of the land for which the lease is being sought is proposed to be used to extend and re-structure the small car park off Andy Poole Drive. It is noted that the proposed use of the land by the Bowling Club will be subject to a Development Application process.
- Income derived from leases and licenses need to provide a fair return to the community.
- Tathra Surf Life Saving Club does not hold a lease or a licence over the land on which the clubhouse is sited. Nor does it hold a licence or lease for the store attached to the public toilets in Joe Caddey Reserve. Continuation of use and occupation of reserve land by the Surf Club needs to be authorised by the Trust Manager by way of a lease or licence.
- The carnival that visits Tathra during the summer holiday season may not be able to be allocated a site in the foreshore reserve of a size similar to that allocated in the past.
- In recent years it has occupied an area of Taylor Square where the skate bowl is now located and the old tennis court site, which is now proposed to be leased to the Bowling Club.
- The access road to Kianinny Bay does not have legal status under the Roads Act.
- Up until now, temporary community and commercial activities for which licences have been sought have not involved competition by two or more licence applicants. Under such circumstances protocol for competitive tendering and selection criteria would be required.

□ ***Desired Outcome***

- Ensure leases and licenses remain appropriate to the purpose of the reserve, meet the needs of reserve users, provide a fair return to the community, provide for maximum possible levels of public access and ensure adequate security to the lessee or licensee.

- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (To protect and enhance the identified recreational and tourism/ commercial values.)
 - a) Seek to establish a lease or licence between the Trust Manager and the Tathra Surf Life Saving Club for the use of the land occupied by the Club.
 - b) Facilitate the completion of the Lease agreement between Tathra Beach Bowling Club and Bega Valley Shire Council subject to the Bowling Club incorporating facilities such as tables and seats and a reduced lease area to allow for an extension and re-structuring of the small car park off Andy Poole Drive. The lease will be for a period of 20 years, after which the use of the site will be reviewed.
 - c) Continue to permit food and beverage outlets operating at Jim Preo Reserve, the kiosk and Tathra Wharf in accordance with the “*Food and Beverage Outlets on Crown Reserves Policy, 2001*”.
 - d) Temporary commercial and community activities will be allowed in the Tathra foreshore reserves providing they are intended to enhance the public’s enjoyment of the reserves and subject to:
 - Being consistent with the form and character of the reserve;
 - Public access to the reserve being preserved;
 - Approval being obtained from relevant authorities
 - Operation in accordance with consent conditions.

In the event of more than one applicant seeking a licence to conduct the same activity, competitive tendering protocol and selection criteria will be developed

- e) Maintain existing lease and maintenance agreement between Tathra Fishermen’s Club and Department of Land and Water Conservation.
- f) The Permissive Occupancy held by Tathra Motor Village over part of Reserve 79310 is to be terminated and management of the area will revert to the Reserve Trust.
- g) Investigate the need to formalise legal access to the Fishermans Club Lease area.

6.9.5 DOMESTIC ANIMALS ON BEACHES

□ **Existing Situation**

The use of the Shire’s ocean beaches and reserves to exercise dogs is a long-standing recreational pastime. The exercising of dogs on beaches and reserves, on the whole, does not result in significant degradation of coastal open space areas in this shire. Council recognises that exercising dogs is a popular pastime and supports the use of beaches and reserves for this activity in a manner that ensures public amenity, recreational usage and environmental values are not degraded.

Animals must be kept under the effective control of the owner at all times. The following general restrictions apply:

- Companion animals are permitted on Council managed reserves as defined by signage.

- Companion animals must be leashed and under the effective control of the owner unless in a defined leash free area, and must not be permitted to harass the public or wildlife.
- Dogs are not permitted in reserves within 10 metres of children’s playgrounds

Bega Valley Shire Council has adopted the Dog Control Areas Policy to control and regulate dogs on beaches through the declaration of dog permitted areas both leashed and leash free, and dog prohibited areas.

□ ***Issues***

- Domestic animals, particularly dogs, need to be controlled on beaches and public reserves to protect recreational amenity and natural values.
- Comments received during the preparation of the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management suggest that public education about responsible dog ownership is required in the Tathra area. Dogs were frequently observed unleashed on the beach immediately adjacent to the Kiosk with dog faeces often left on the beach. A young child was also reported to have been attacked and injured by a dog in this area during the 2000/ 2001 summer.
- Dogs need to be restricted/ discouraged from entering areas near nesting threatened shorebird species (Little Tern and Pied Oystercatcher) during their breeding seasons (from late November to March)

□ ***Desired Outcomes***

- Foreshore reserves and beaches being used for exercising companion animals in a manner that does not adversely impact on public amenity and safety, recreational use or environmental values.
- Companion animals do not disturb threatened shorebird species while nesting.

□ ***Management Actions and Guidelines (To protect and enhance the identified natural and recreational values.)***

- a) The Council Policy “*Dog Control Areas*” (Appendix 1) will be implemented in the planning area.
- b) Implement a community education program to encourage community acceptance and adherence to the “*Dog Control Areas Policy*” by appropriate signage, press releases and enforcement. This education program will focus on the concept of responsible dog ownership.

6.9.6 FIRES ON BEACHES

□ ***Existing Situation***

In recent years, the lighting of fires on beaches in the Tathra area has not been a problem. Infrequent lighting of fires only tends to occur during peak holiday periods.

- **Issues**
 - The lighting of fires on beaches is potentially one of the most hazardous activities that occur in coastal open space areas. The uncontrolled and sporadic lighting of fires results in a hazardous recreational environment, where the heat from fires can pose a significant threat to beach goers for days after the original fire was lit.
- **Desired Outcomes**
 - No fires being lit on beaches.
- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect and enhance the identified recreational values.*)
 - a) Identify resources to allow Council Rangers to effectively enforce beach fire prohibition
 - b) Continue existing policy of prohibiting the lighting of fires on beaches in the planning area and install appropriate signage.

6.9.7 WATER QUALITY AND URBAN RUN-OFF

□ **Existing Situation**

Water currently runs directly into the ocean from Killarney Creek and from urban runoff outlets at Tathra Beach. Rubbish often accumulates in the open drain at Hollis Gap where the drain crosses Andy Poole Drive.

Bega Valley Shire Council has implemented a campaign to raise community awareness about not introducing contaminated material into urban stormwater system.

- **Issues**
 - Concern about the water quality of Killarney Creek and of water running out onto the beach and into the ocean from urban run-off.
 - The quantity and quality of water and sediment that runs off car parks at the Bega river mouth and into the river.
 - The stormwater outlet between Hollis Gap and surf club is poorly drained and has in the past eroded the beach. The drain cannot be re-routed to the beach trough Hollis Gap.
- **Desired outcomes.**
 - Any water running into the sea should not contribute to beach erosion and be free of contaminants and rubbish.
- **Management Actions and Guidelines** (*To protect and enhance the identified natural values.*)
 - a) Install grills in the open drain at Hollis Gap to trap rubbish and undertake regular clearing.
 - b) Design and maintain car parks adjacent to Bega River so as to minimise sediment runoff into the river.
 - c) Monitor water quality in Killarney Creek

6.9.8 RESERVE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

□ Existing Situation

Primary responsibility for the day to day care, control and management of the reserves in the planning area rests with Bega Valley Shire Council. Council is the appointed Trust Manager of Reserves R79310 (Bega River to Beach Hill), R82753 (Jim Preo and Ray Whyman Reserves) and R 180056 Tathra (Wharf).

The appointment of Council as trust manager confers on Council the fee simple right to lease/ licence and collect income for the use of the reserve for the purpose it has been reserved.

Council manages several reserves by devolvement by the provisions of section 48 of the Local Government Act, rather than appointment as Trust Manager under the provision of the Crown Lands Act. Namely reserves R69605 (the public pound), R64333 (Tathra Headland to Kianinny Bay) and R64335 (Tathra Headland). Management by devolvement does not give Council the powers to lease/ licence and collect income for the use of the reserve for the purpose it has been reserved.

In addition there are a number of reserves in the planning area for which no trust has been appointed and are not caught by the provisions of the Local Government Act that devolve management responsibility. These are R89138 (#9 in Figure 4- Remnant Melaleuca to the East of Bay St and behind houses in Illoura St), R68914 (# 3 Figure 4, northern side of Pacific St and Reserve 85970 (#13 in Figure 4 between the Bermagui Road and Mogareeka Drive).

Other Reserves, indicated by numbers 11, and 12 in Figure 4 have not been formally reserved under the Crown Lands Act and will require an action to have those lands reserved for appropriate purposes if considered necessary.

The Tathra Parks and Reserves Committee is Council's appointed planning and management advisory body for Reserve 79310 south of the Caravan Park and Tathra Wharf. The Committee was established by Council in September 2000 to assist in the development and implementation of a Plan of Management for Tathra foreshore reserves and other facilities under it's care and control. Its geographic scope does not currently include the all of the Tathra foreshore reserve system, which is subject to this Plan of Management.

Section 106 of the *Crown Lands Act (1989)* requires that the net amount of proceeds received from a sale, lease, easement or licence shall be applied for the general purpose of the reserve in which the income was generated, unless otherwise directed by the Minister. To enable a more co-ordinated approach to management of the reserve system it could be advantageous to seek Ministerial approval to spend income derived from any part of the Tathra Reserve system in any area covered by this plan of management and recommended in this Plan of Management.

Volunteer groups play an important role in the management of the reserves. The Rural Fire Brigade in association with the Bega Valley Shire Council has an important role in protecting people, property and the environment. Tathra Landcare has played an invaluable role in controlling Bitou Bush in the planning area and

Tathra Lions club have been active in providing visitor facilities and infrastructure at Lions Park south of Bega River and on the Tathra Headland.

The Tathra Amateur Fishing Club manages and maintains the recreation and tourist facility at Kianinny Bay. Some open grassy areas of Tathra Headland between the beach stairs and the Memorial Gardens are maintained by adjoining residents.

Up until 2000, staff from the Tathra Tourist Park carried out maintenance of Taylor Square and foreshore reserves between Taylor Square and the headland steps.

Since then, Bega Valley Shire Town Team has carried out maintenance of this and the remainder of the reserve system. The Town Maintenance Team, in addition to routine maintenance, respond to “Customer Action Requests”- a system for requesting, recording and scheduling maintenance and repairs in the Shire’s parks and reserves.

The Tathra Sunshine has been the driving force behind the design, resourcing and construction of the Tathra Skatebowl.

□ **Issues**

- Existing maintenance has a direct correlation to current budgetary limitations.
- Future maintenance standards could be effected by potential increase in income flowing from Tathra Tourist Park.
- Council has been appointed trust manager under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act for only 3 of the Reserves that constitute the foreshore reserves in the planning area. Council’s powers to lease, licence and raise income from the other reserves in the planning area is restricted.
- Some reserves in the planning area have not been formally reserved under the Crown Lands Act.
- Income generated must be used for the management, maintenance or improvement of the Crown reserve in which the income is generated unless The Minister for Land and Water Conservation consents to its use elsewhere in the Tathra Foreshore Crown Reserve system.
- Bega Valley Shire Council has appointed the Tathra Parks and Reserves Committee to advise Council on the planning and management of Reserve 79310 south of the Caravan Park and Tathra Wharf. This geographic area of responsibility does not incorporate all the Tathra foreshore reserves included in this Plan of Management system.
- There is a perception among some of the public that maintenance of Tathra foreshore reserves is too infrequent. It is noted that this may be a reflection of budget priorities, not standards of work.

□ ***Desired Outcomes***

- A system of reserve management that allows for budgeting and management of the Crown Tathra foreshore Crown reserves as a single management unit.
- Reserves with infrastructure that is safe and well maintained at all times.

- ***Management Actions and Guidelines*** (To protect and enhance each of the identified values.)
- a) To encourage a co-ordinated approach to community participation in the planning and management of the Tathra Foreshore Reserve System, the geographic scope of the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will be expanded to incorporate all reserves included in this Plan of Management. The Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee will be the principal community consultation group for establishing priorities and implementing the adopted plan, in consultation with existing voluntary groups including the Tathra Lions Club and the Tathra Amateur Fishermans Club. It will also play an important role in monitoring the progress of plan implementation.
 - b) The Tathra Foreshore Reserves Trust (managed by Council) will be established and appointed trust manager under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act for all reserves included in this Plan of management. Under the provisions of Section 106 of the Crown Lands Act, the Trust will be permitted to expend funds derived from one reserve in another reserve as long as it is in accordance with this Plan of Management.
 - c) Reserve 69605 for Public Pound (#8 on Figure 4), be revoked and incorporated into Reserve 64333 for Public Recreation
 - d) Reserve 85970 for Plantation (#13 on Figure 4), be revoked and incorporated into Reserve 82753 for Public Recreation
 - e) Incorporate Un-notified Reserve for Public Recreation (#12 on Figure 4) in Reserve 64335 for Public Recreation
 - f) Incorporate Un-notified Reserve for Drainage (#4 on Figure 4) in Reserve 79310 for Public Recreation
 - g) Incorporate Un-notified Reserve for Access (#11 on Figure 4) in Reserve 64333 for Public Recreation
 - h) Reserve 68914 for Access (#3 on Figure 4), be Revoked and incorporated in Reserve 79310 for Public Recreation
 - i) Seek to establish a maintenance budget and grant funds for maintenance standards that meet community expectations.

7. CONCEPT PLANS

Concept plans are presented in figures 1 and 2. They summarise principal strategies proposed for the planning area and improvements to be implemented under the Tathra Foreshore Reserve Plan of Management.

A landscape concept plan for Taylor Square/ Joe Caddey Park (figure 6) and Jim Preo/ Ray Whyman Reserves (figure 7) are also provided. Both concept plans have been prepared in accordance with management actions and guidelines recommended in the body of the Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

Tathra Foreshore Reserves Plan of Management is an integrated plan developed by Bega Valley Shire Council in association with the Department of Land and Water Conservation. Implementation will primarily be the responsibility of Bega Valley Shire Council and will be undertaken within the Council's annual program as resources allow. Grant funding will be targeted wherever possible.

Income generated by Tathra Beach Tourist Park will contribute to the implementation budget. The amount of funds available from the Tourist Park will determine the speed with which the plan can be implemented. This plan has maintained that leasing the Tourist Park will generate the greatest income in the shortest period of time for use in the remainder of the reserve system.

It has not been possible to present a timetable for implementation or a capital improvements priority list as a funding stream from the Tathra Tourist Park has not yet been determined. However, some implementation priorities that require little or no funding can be implemented once the plan is adopted. These priorities focus on:

- administrative and management issues that need to be resolved quickly;
- actions required to address public safety, environmental issues and urgent maintenance.

8.1 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Plan of Management should be a self-regulating tool and as such must also include an assessment of performance to be efficient. Council, in association with the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee, will undertake to assess its performance in implementing the plan on an annual basis. This assessment will include a review of priorities for inclusion in Council's annual budget process for the planning area.

Performance indicators will the implementation of short term priority actions listed below and any capital improvements.

8.2 PRIORITY ACTIONS

8.2.1 SHORT TERM PRIORITY ACTIONS

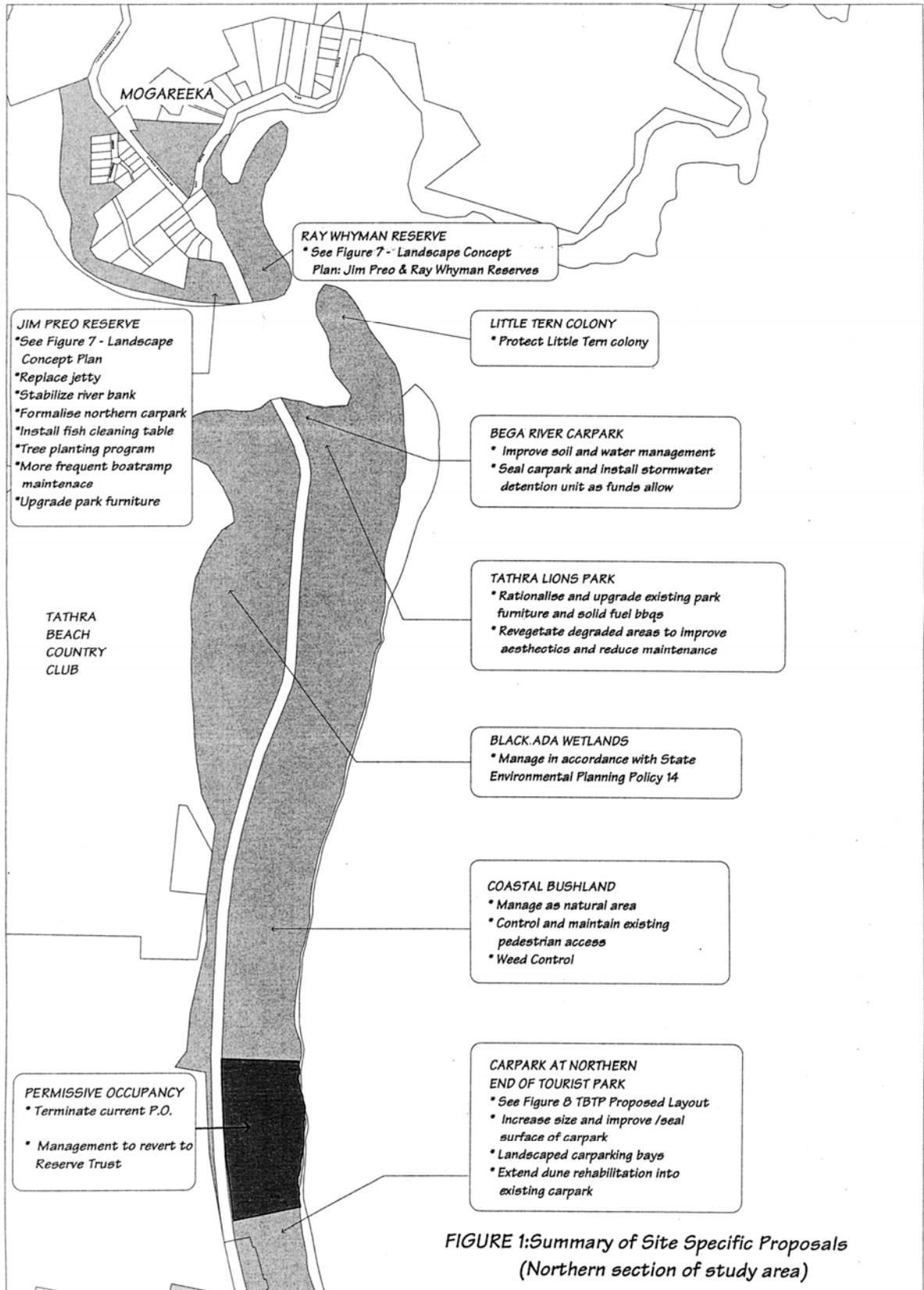
- ***Administrative and management issues that need to be resolved quickly:***
 - The Tathra Foreshore Reserves Trust (managed by Council) will be established and appointed trust manager under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act for all reserves included in this Plan of management. Under the provisions of Section 106 of the Crown Lands Act, the Trust will be permitted to expend funds derived from one reserve in another reserve as long as it is in accordance with this Plan of Management. (6.9.8)
 - The Bega Aboriginal Land Council will be encouraged to actively participate in the planning and management of the Tathra Foreshore reserves by joining the Tathra Parks and Foreshore Committee (6.6.2)

- Instigate the administrative process required to achieve the various Reserve status changes as outlined in section 6.9.8.
 - Develop an Asset Management Plan for the Tathra Foreshore Reserves incorporating standards and procedures for infrastructure construction, inspection, assessment, recording and maintenance. (6.8.6 & 6.9.2)
 - Finalise the long term management of the Tathra Tourist Park.(6.7.2)
 - Establish a lease or licence for the occupation of Tathra Surf Life Saving Club premises(6.9.4)
 - Facilitate the completion of the lease of the old Tathra Tennis courts to Tathra Bowling Club. (6.9.4)
 - Seek grant funding for proposals contained in this plan.(6.9.8)
- ***Public safety, environmental issues and urgent maintenance.***
- Implement weed control and eradication measures.(6.2)
 - Protection of the Little Tern breeding colony.(6.1)
 - Re-vegetate parts of the cliff-tops on Tathra Headland to enhance the survival of the *Melaleuca armillaris* (Giant Honey Myrtle) at this site.(6.1)
 - Control pedestrian traffic to the beach throughout the foreshore reserves by providing well-maintained beach access ways and by installing, replacing and re-locating fencing as required. (6.3)
 - Re-plant sections of the dune system where die-back of previous plantings is evident.(6.3)
 - Implement fire management actions of this plan of management. (6.4)
 - Improve maintenance of beach access stairs and beach access ways (6.8.5)
 - Develop an annual maintenance program for the Tathra Wharf to include:
 - The structure of the wharf platform (pylons, cross bracing),
 - The condition of the platform timbers and railing,
 - Electrical system and location of the power board.
 - Fire detection and suppression.
 - Condition of building cladding and drainage (6.6.1)
 - Prepare an Aboriginal Assessment Report for the planning area to identify culturally significant sites, assess their vulnerability and develop strategies for their protection. (6.6.2)
 - Implement trial waste management strategies to minimise waste in the foreshore area. (6.9.1)
 - The future placement of permanent infrastructure and replacement of existing infrastructure will be above the 1 in 50 yr hazard line (6.4)
 - Improve the quality of car parks by implementing a program of progressively sealing all car parks in the foreshore reserves as funds allow. Priority will be given to those car parks adjacent to waterways where sediment run-off has been identified as a potential issue.
 - Disabled access to the reserve system and beach will be improved by the installation of disabled parking signs at key locations. Priority will be given to installations at Thatchers Flat adjacent to the kiosk, and at Tathra Headland car park

8.2.2 MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Priorities for major capital works associated with Taylor Square, Tathra Headland, Tathra Wharf access and other recreation and tourism infrastructure improvements are dependent on availability of funding. Components of each of these larger projects may be implemented progressively as funds become available. Timing of improvements to Tathra Beach Tourist Park will be subject to resolving the long-term park management issue.

9. FIGURES



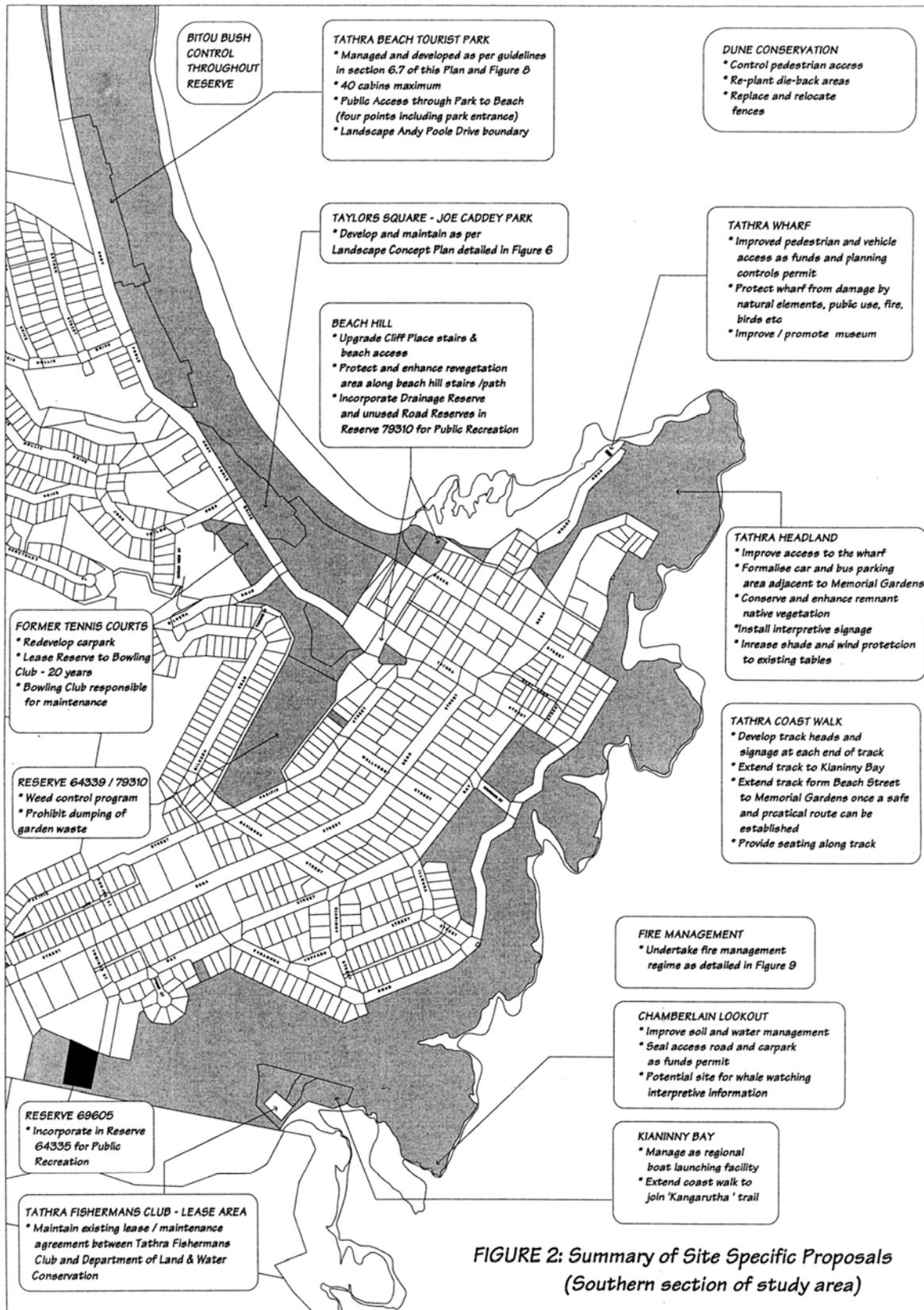


FIGURE 2: Summary of Site Specific Proposals (Southern section of study area)

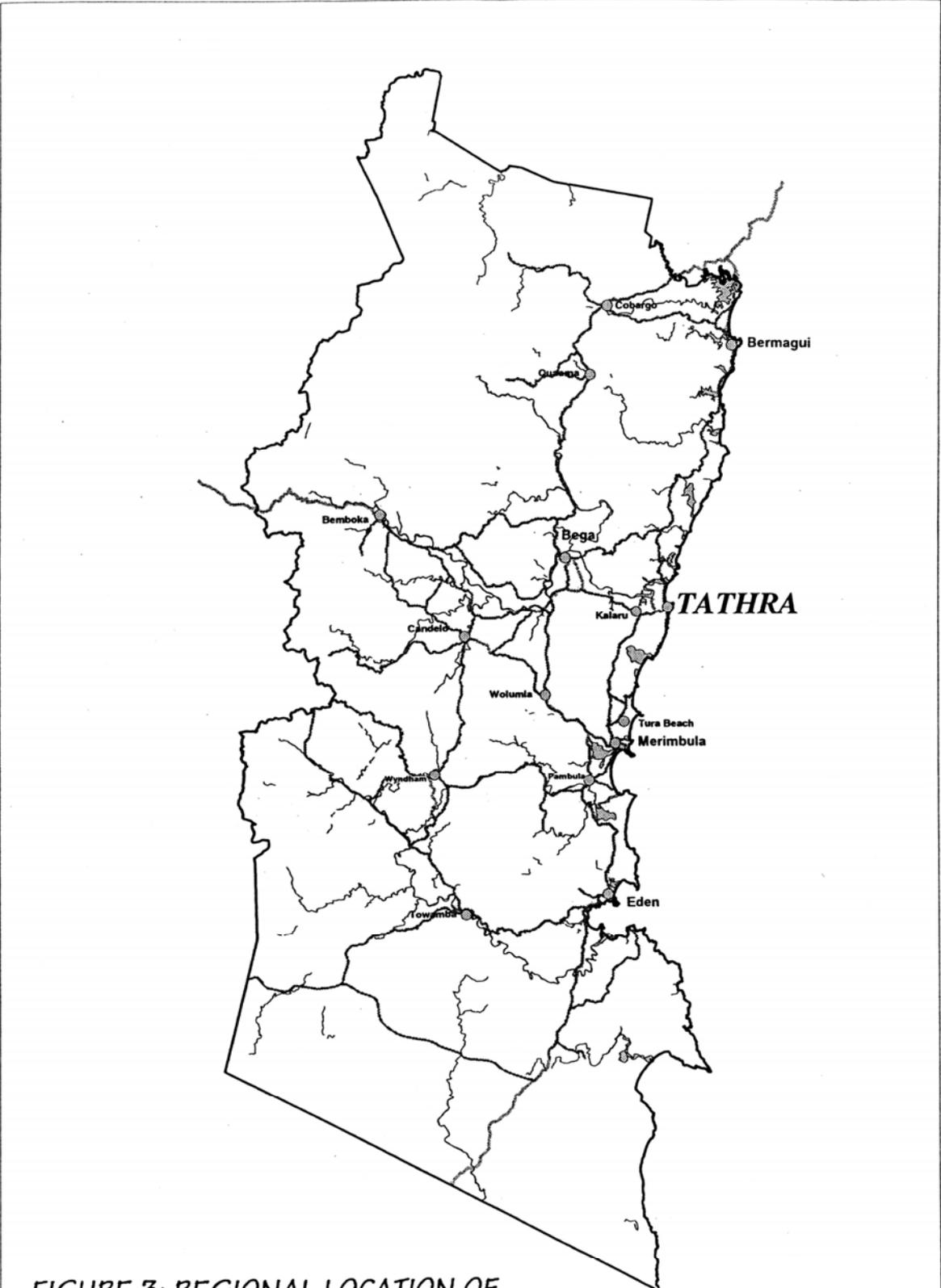


FIGURE 3: REGIONAL LOCATION OF STUDY AREA

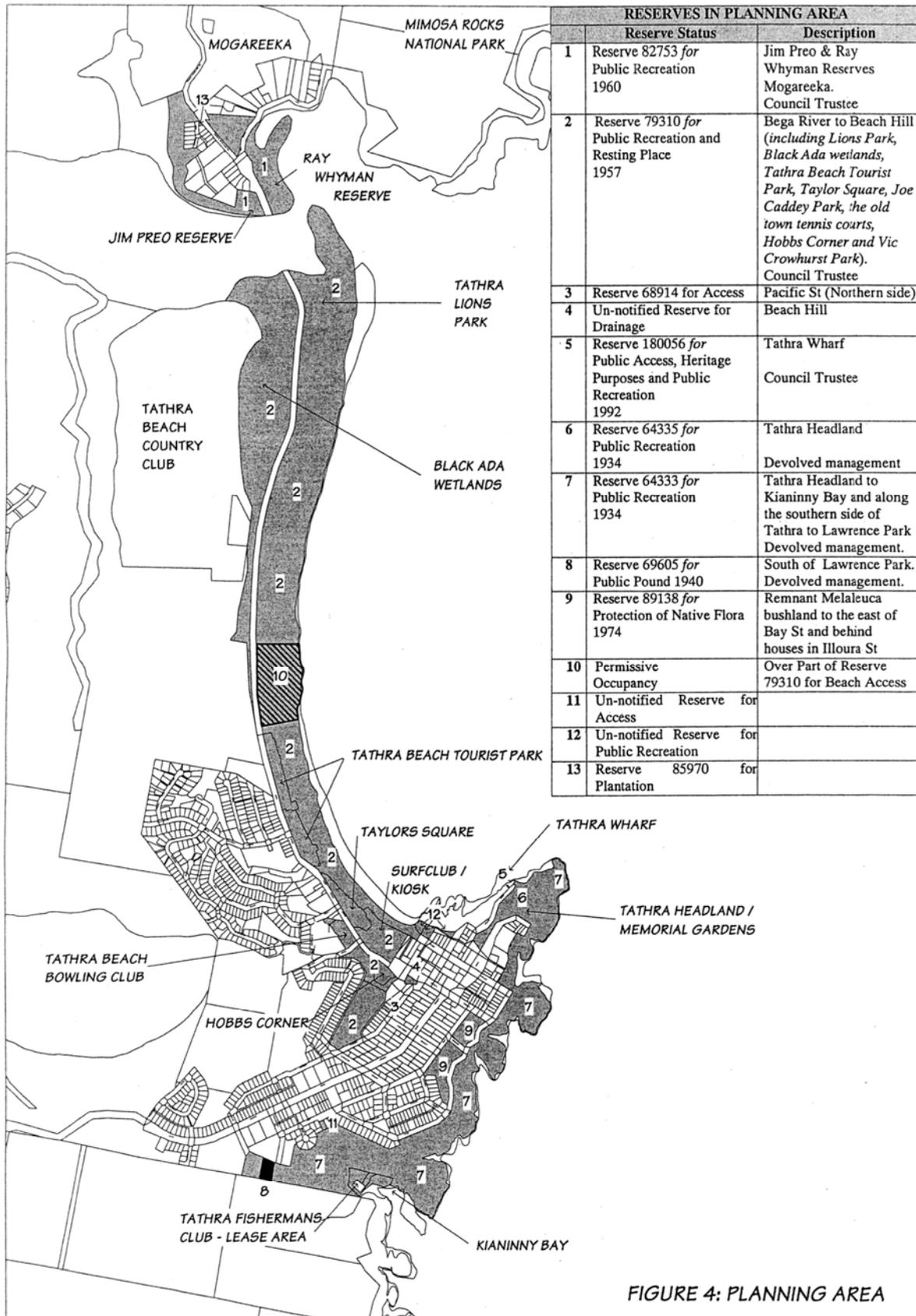
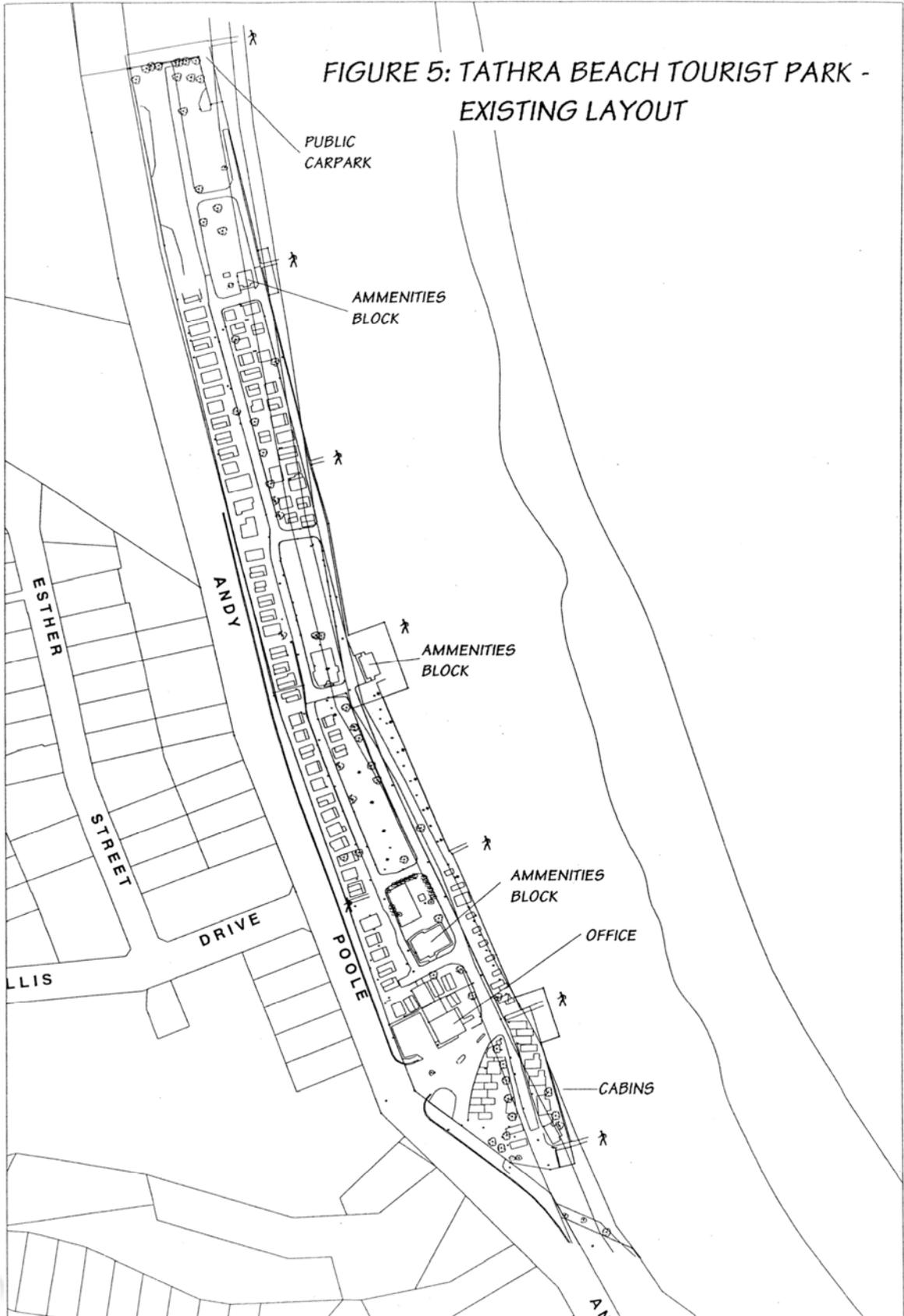


FIGURE 4: PLANNING AREA

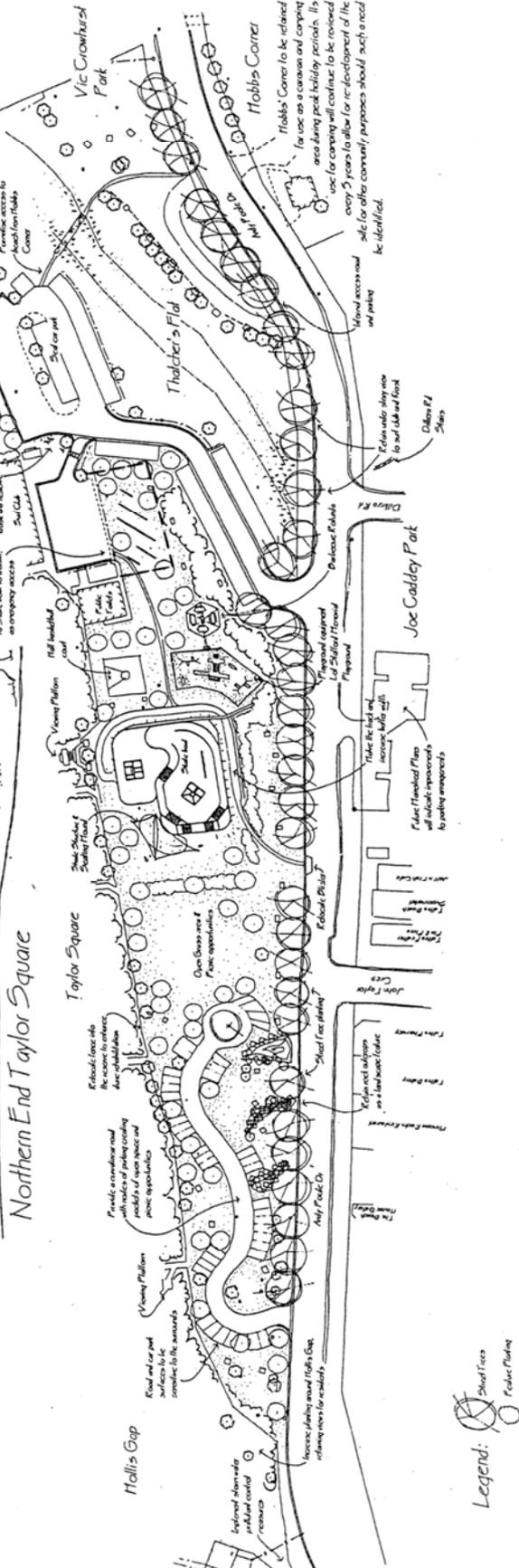
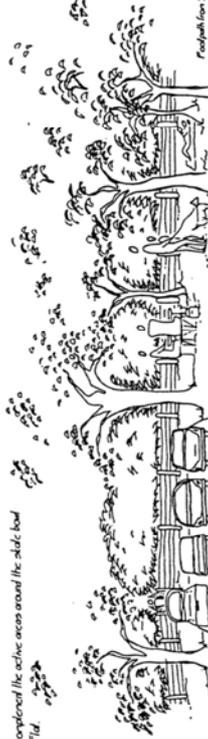
FIGURE 5: TATHRA BEACH TOURIST PARK - EXISTING LAYOUT



TAYLOR SQUARE / JOE CADDEY PARK LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN

The principal funding source for improvements is to be income from the Talha Beach Tourist Park. Foreshore land is a scarce and valuable community asset. Only those activities that take advantage of the natural, scenic and cultural values of the foreshore should be located there. Parking, beach access and picnic opportunities could be encouraged in the northern half of Taylor Square to take pressure off the Hobbs/Hobbs's Field area. Developments in the northern half of Taylor Square will be limited to complement the active areas around the skate bowl and the more intensively used areas of Joe Caddey Park and Thaddeus's Field. The foreshore landscape and any 'foot' structures should be designed so they complement each other. Views from properties on Any's Foot Drive will be considered in consultation with residents when street species are selected for landscaping Taylor Square. Developments in northern Taylor Square will recognise the existing and potential linkages with shops on Any's Foot Drive. The drive system is an important feature around encroachment by the sea and roof crown stable and protected.

- Family groups are an important tourist market segment in Talha. Thaddeus's Field/Joe Caddey Reserve is popular with throughout the beach, parking, shops, toilets and picnic tables are all close by.
- Facilities for children are important in this area because it is popular with families.
- There will be important linkages between:
- The proposed skate bowl, picnic shelter and toilets.
- Any's Foot shops and facilities in Taylor Square and Joe Caddey Reserve.
- The area between the foot and surf club is an important gateway to Talha beach, so such it warrants improving and landscaping.
- A signage plan will be prepared for the foreshore reserve area.
- Tourist coach traffic is likely to increase when the Talha to Derragh road is improved. Provision for buses is therefore proposed for Vic Crowhurst Reserve.



Legend:

- Street Trees
- Native Planting
- Group Planting
- Paths
- Fences
- Existing Trees
- Site for future surfclub/kiosk relocation

Devo Valley Shire Council
 Drawn by: Penny Green
 Not to Scale
 North:

FIGURE 6: TAYLOR SQUARE / JOE CADDEY PARK LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN

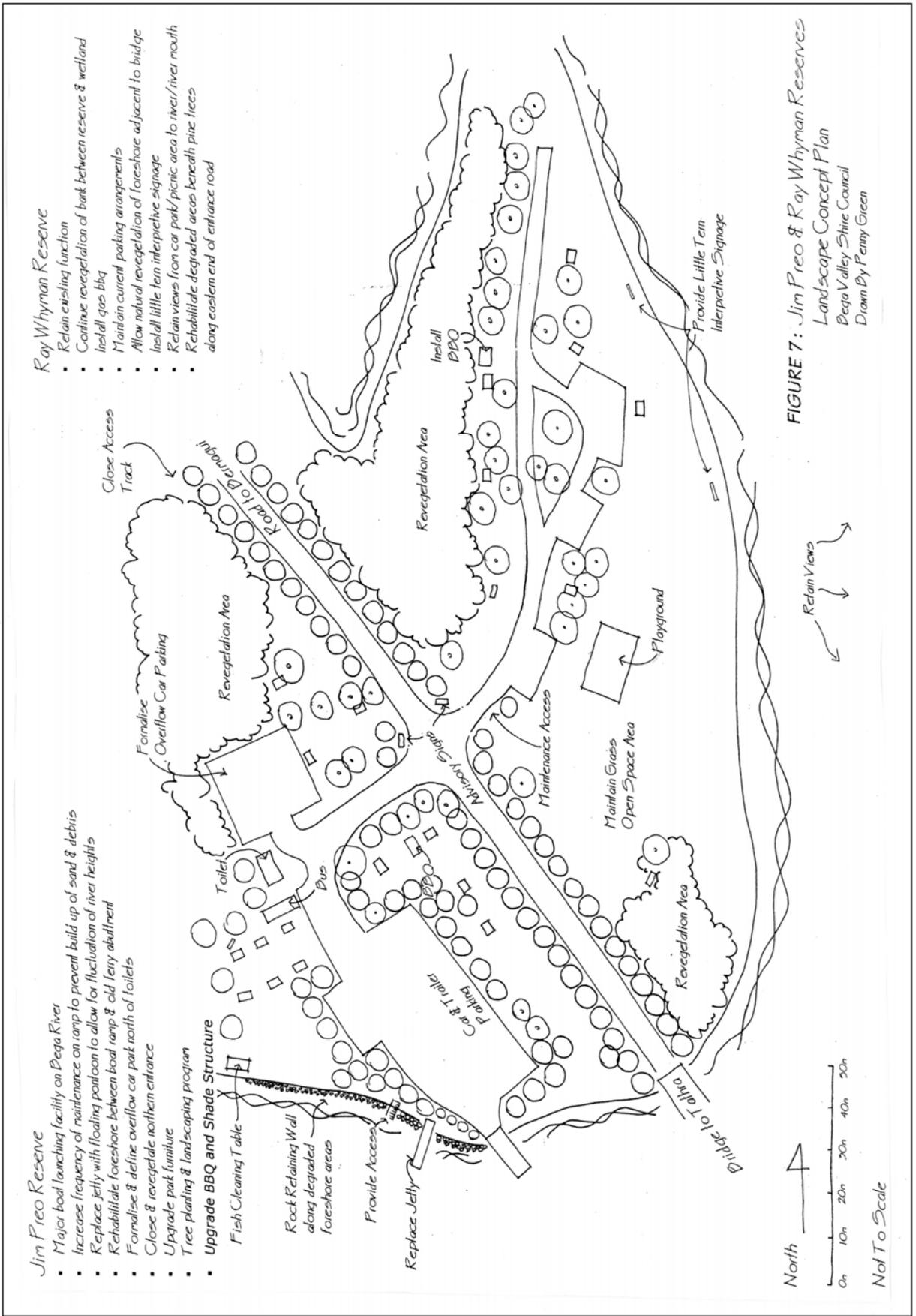
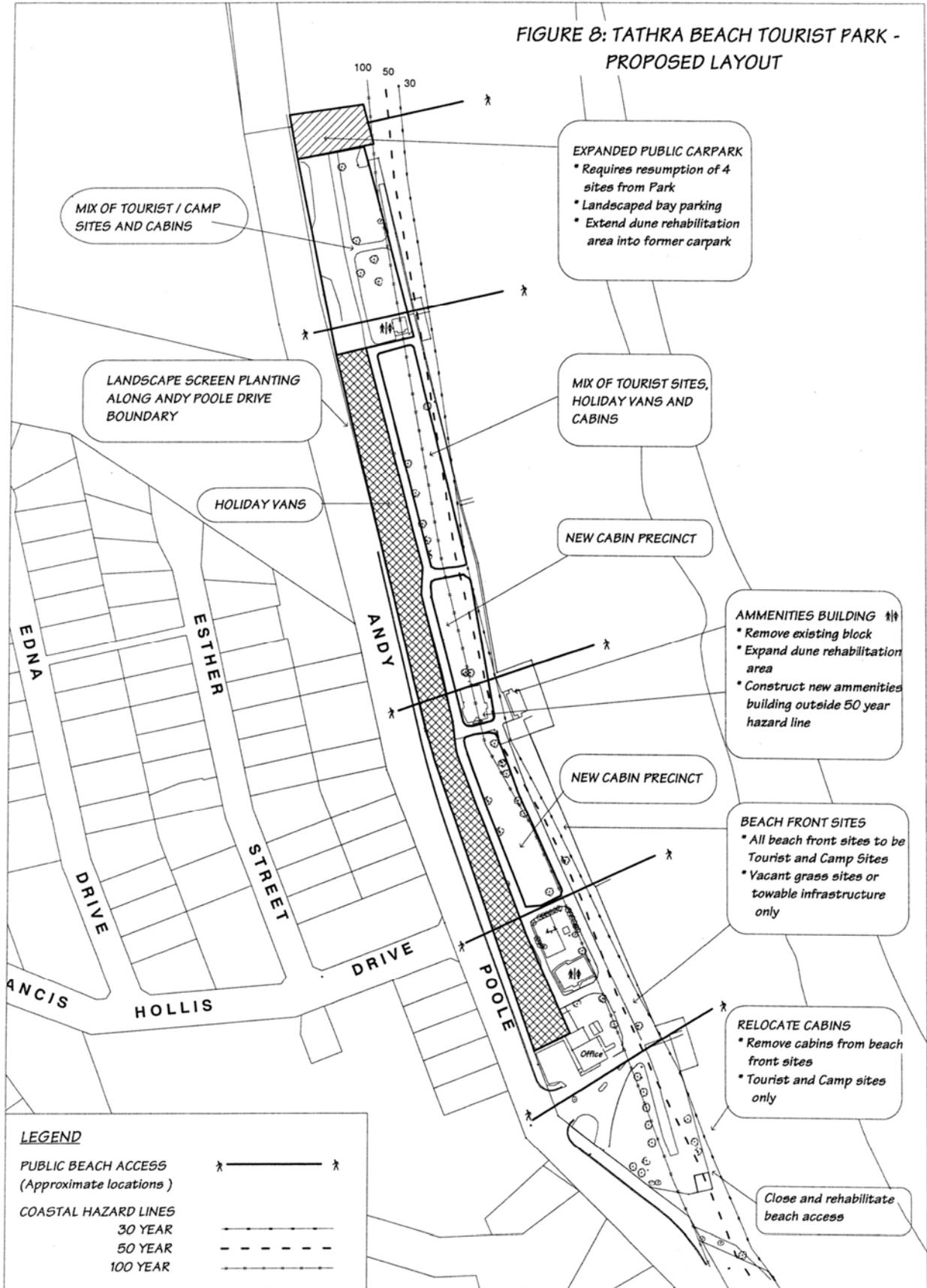
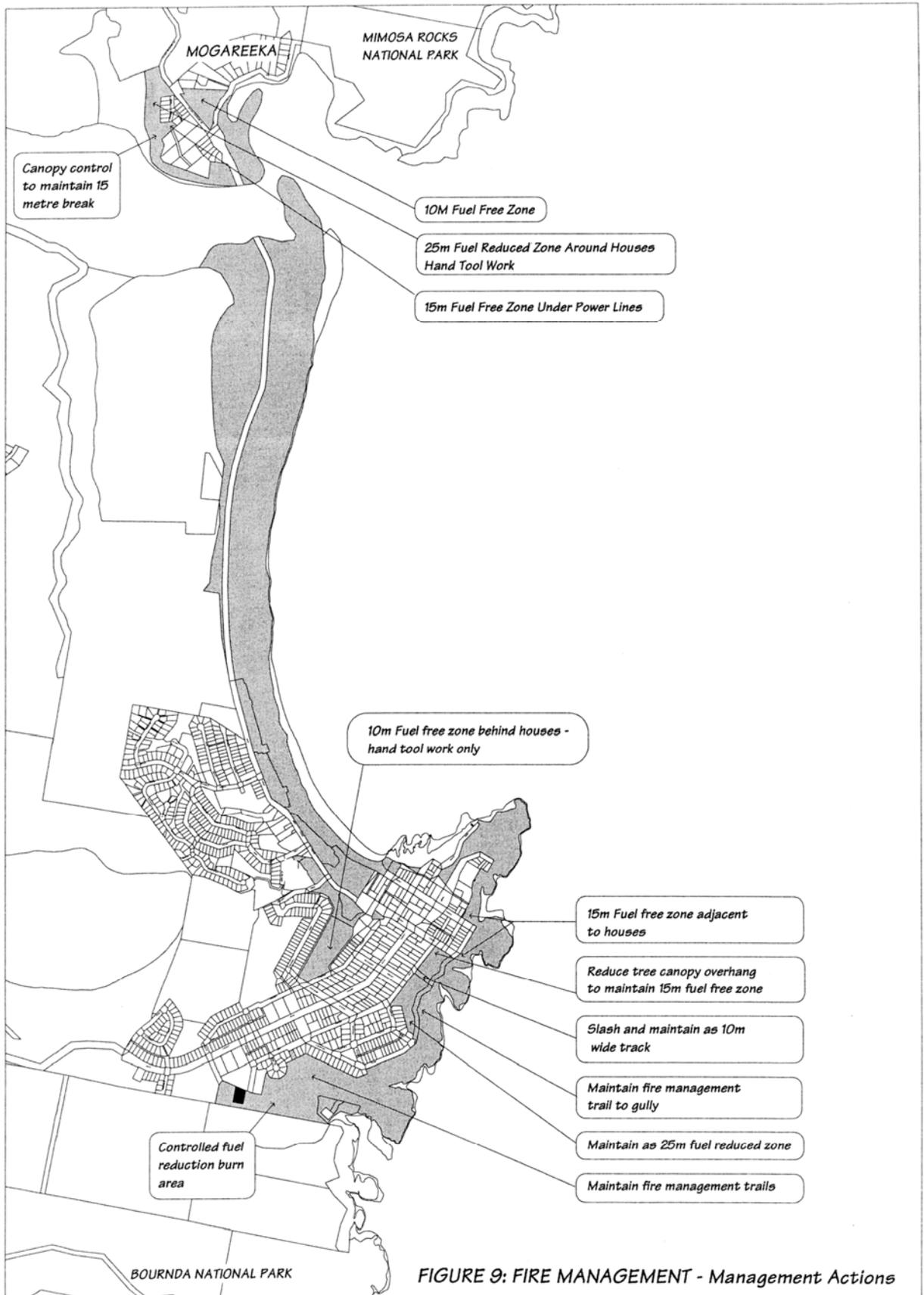
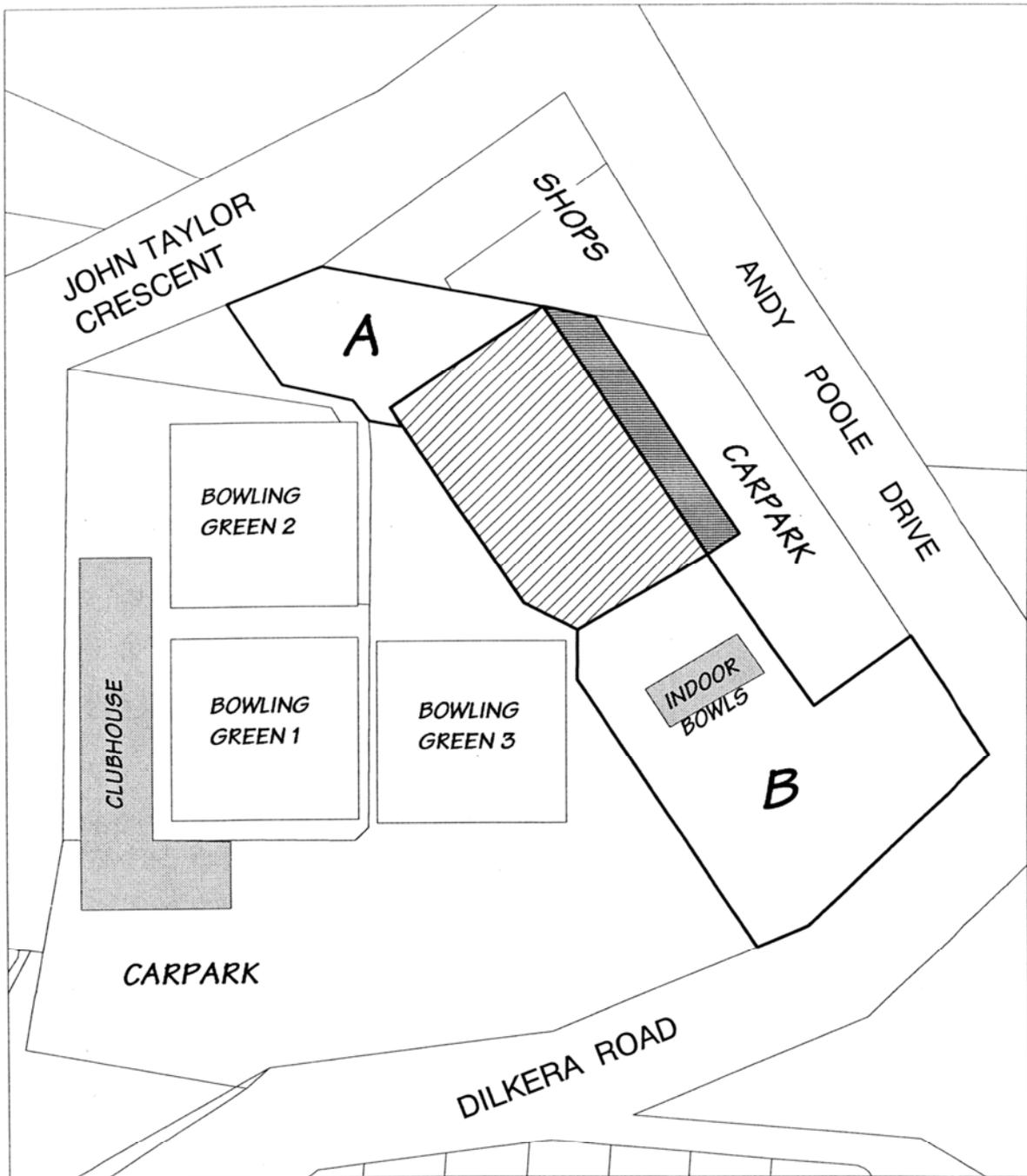


FIGURE 7: Jim Prego & Ray Whyman Reserves
 Landscape Concept Plan
 Pogo Valley Shire Council
 Drawn By Ferny Green

FIGURE 8: TATHRA BEACH TOURIST PARK - PROPOSED LAYOUT







PREVIOUS LEASE AREA

PROPOSED ADDITION TO LEASE AREA

PROPOSED TOTAL LEASE AREA

AREA REQUIRED FOR CARPARK RECONSTRUCTION

A / B



FIGURE 10: PROPOSED EXTENSION TO CURRENT BOWLING CLUB LEASE AREA

10. REFERENCES

- Bega Valley Shire Council (1996). *Draft Plan of Management for Tathra Coastal and Foreshore Regional Reserves*
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- Bega Valley Shire Council (2001). *Bega Valley Shire Coastal Planning and Management Strategy*
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- Sinclair Knight Mertz. (1997) *Tathra Sewerage Augmentation for Bega Valley Shire Council*
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- Yencken D, Mackenzie B et al (1996). *Townscape Study, Tathra NSW Prepared for Bega Valley Shire Council*

11. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 DOG CONTROL AREAS POLICY

PROHIBITED AREAS

Wildlife protected areas-1 November to 31 March

- Mogareeka Inlet from the river mouth south to Lions Park.

Public bathing areas- all patrolled beaches 18 December to 31 January.

- Tathra Beach

Public recreation areas- at all times

- Tathra Wharf.

PERMITTED AREAS- LEASHED

Dogs are permitted on beaches not indicated above if under the effective control of a competent person by way of a leash cord or chain. The person must also carry a plastic bag and remove and dispose of all faeces from their dog. Similar conditions apply to foreshore reserves.

PERMITTED AREAS- UNLEASHED

Dogs are permitted on Tathra beach between the northern boundary of the Tourist Park and south of the Tathra Country Club beach access-way, unleashed at any time if under effective control of a competent person. The person must also carry a plastic bag and remove and dispose of all faeces from their dog. *Dog off leash* areas are restricted to the areas in front of dunes so as to minimise the negative impacts on dune stabilization works and native flora and fauna.

Notwithstanding the above, assistance animals may be exercised unleashed on any dog-permitted beach area.

**TATHRA HEADLAND COMMUNITY LAND
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1993) REQUIREMENTS**

A. BACKGROUND

This plan applies to the area of Tathra Headland recently acquired by the State Government under the Coastal Lands Acquisition Scheme and transferred to Bega Valley Shire Council. The Land is classified as “community land” under the Local Government Act (1993).

B. SCHEDULE OF LANDS

This plan applies to the following parcels of land;

Lot	DP	Size (sq/m)
1	859237	575.7
5	17764	488.8
6	17764	734.4

C. THE PLANNING PROCESS

Council owned lands: Defined as Community Lands under the Local Government Act 1993.

The Local Government Act (1993), the Local Government Amendment (Community Land Management) Act (1998) and two supporting regulations – the Local Government (General) Amendment (Community Land Management) Regulation (1999) and the Local Government (Financial Management) Amendment (Accounts) Regulation (1999); impose several requirements on Councils management of Community Land and the subsequent production of plans of management for these areas; as follows.

Local Government Act Requirements – Community Land

- 1) Section 36(4) of the Local Government Act (1993), requires the categorization of community land as being, either a) natural area; b) a sportsground; c) a park; d) an area of cultural significance; e) general community use. Section 36(5) requires the further categorization of natural area.

The Community Land at Tathra Headland has been categorised as ‘Natural Area -Foreshore’

- 2) Section 36(3)(b) requires the plan of management identify the objectives and performance targets with respect to the land; (See section 4 of this plan).

This plan meets the above requirement through the provision of a set of objectives, which are in effect Councils performance targets and are the desired outcome of Councils management of this section of Community Land.

See section 5 of this plan.

- 3) Section 36(3)(c) requires the plan detail the means by which the council proposes to

achieve the plans objectives and performance targets.

Council will achieve its performance targets through the effective implementation of the management actions and guidelines as detailed in section 6.8.1 of this plan.

- 4) Section 36(3)(d) requires the plan detail the way in which council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan’s objectives and performance targets.

See Section 8.1 of this plan; Performance Assessment.

- 5) Section 36(3A) A plan of management that applies to just one area of community land:

- (a) must include a description of;
- (i) the *condition* of the land and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management

The land has been previously cleared and is now a grassed openspace area that has been maintained by mowing in recent years. There are no built assets on the site.

- (ii) the *use* of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and:

The land is currently not used for any purpose.

- (b) must:
- (i) specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements will be permitted to be used,
See section 6.8.1
- (ii) (ii) specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease, license or otherwise
See section 6.8.1
- (iii) describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.
See section 6.8.1

- 6) Section 36E-36N – council must manage community land in accordance with the core objectives, for the relevant category of land, set out in these sections. Council’s plans of management must be consistent with the core objectives and be amended where necessary under clause 6JE of the Local Government (General) Regulations.

The objectives and management of the community land to which this plan applies (Tathra Headland Community Land) are consistent with the core objectives for ‘Natural Area – Foreshore’.

The Granting of Leases, Licenses and Other Estates

- 7) Section 46 specifies that the granting of leases must be:
- (a) expressly authorized by the plan of management;
 - (b) be for a prescribed purpose listed under Section 46;
 - (c) consistent with the core objectives as detailed in Section 36.

The granting of leases or licences over the subject for the use of this community land is prohibited under this Plan of Management. The land has been acquired specifically to ensure that the foreshore remains in public ownership and the public have access to these areas. As such any leasing or licensing of this area is not seen as appropriate.

